Thursday February 8 1996



Ine Guaro

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Suzanne Moore

Our sexualised culture and teen magazines

Guardian 2 with European weather



OnLine

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Excalibur revealed

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Derek Malcolm on the week's films

Harvey Keitel in Spike Lee's Clockers

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Welfare spending slashed

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

HE cost of running Britain's social security system is to be slashed by at least a quarter in the most draconian cuts pro-gramme seen in the nation's public services, it emerged last night.

Tens of thousands of jobs are at risk and there will be fundamental changes in the way people claim and receive welfare benefits, largely unchanged since the start of the welfare state.

One plan said to be under consideration is a system whereby the onus would pass to claimants to prove their entitlement to benefits. If they could not, they would be

refused money.

Jim Boyd, a leader of the biggest Civil Service union, feat, the Tories are operating a scorched earth policy against the poor and vulnerable people they have failed to help."

The plan to strip a mini-

mum 25 per cent from the Department of Social Security's running costs budget, cur-rently £3.25 billion, has come in a letter to staff from Ann Bowtell, the department's permanent secretary. She says the cuts must be made over

the pext two to three years. The letter was made public 24 hours after Kenneth Clarke, the Chancelior, made a strong defence of the welfare state and warned that sudden "reforms" could trigger social disruption of the kind seen recently in riots on the streets of Paris.

In a lecture yesterday, Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, said that he was pursuing a gradual programme of sector-by-sector reforms and that he endorsed Mr Clarke's comments about the dangers of sudden change.

cuts appear to correspond to demands made by the Treasury in last autumn's spend-ing round. In leaked correspondence with William Waldegrave, then Chief Secre-tary to the Treasury, Mr Lil-ley said: "Your proposed settlement on running costs fills me with despair. The impact on operations will be devastating." He went on: Now . . .

To keep within budgets and cope with rising workloads, we need to find business efficiencies of at least a quarter by 1998/99.

– Ann Bowtell, Permanent Secretary DSS, February 1 1996

. and then

Your proposed settlement on running costs fills me with despair. The impact on operations will , be devastating.

— Peter Lilley in leaked Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, October 1995, warning of the danger

of cuts. "Quite apart from the political fall-out as service be more chaotic, I am convinced



 for reasons I've explained
 that we would be cutting off our noses to spite our It seems that Mr Lilley merely bought time in his ne Austin

gotiations with the Treasury. The cuts programme is ex-pected to deliver relatively few savings next year, 1996-97 but to accelerate sharply

thereafter. Mrs Bowtell says in her letter that, as the single largest spending department in Whitehall, the DSS has a big part to play in controlling costs. "To keep within budget and cope with rising work-loads, we need to find busi-ness efficiencies of at least a quarter by 1998-99."

A running costs review has been taking "a fundamental look at how we could deliver our business at lower cost while maintaining high

standards."
Mrs Bowtell says greater
use will need to be made of computer technology. "We also need to deliver services through 'purchaser/provider' arrangements which pay for results, not procedures. This will involve both DSS staff and the private sector."
Union leaders have seized

on this as proof there will be wholesale privatisation of the department's compute tems, already substantially contracted out. They also expect large-scale

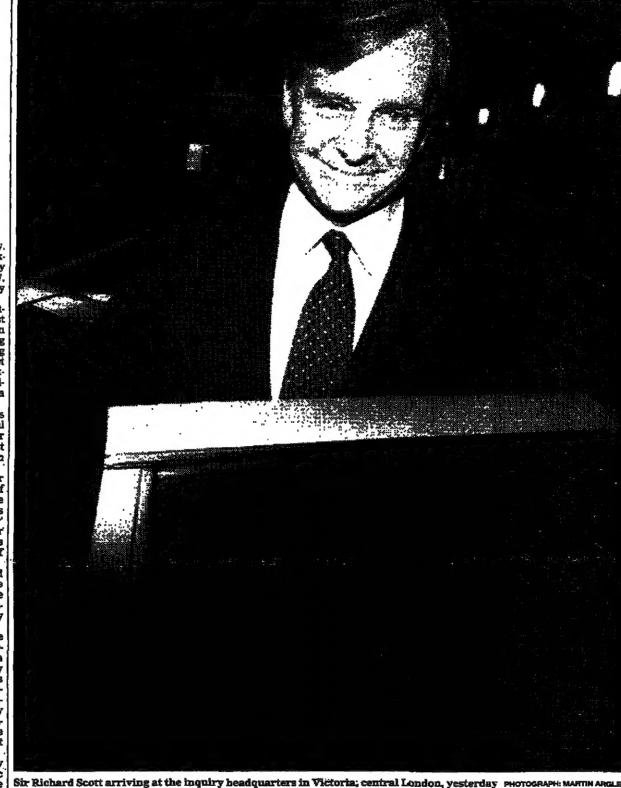
redundancies among the de-partment's 88,000 staff and a shift to self-assessment by benefit claimants along lines being implemented for taxpayers by the Inland Revenue. The unions claim they have seen discussion docu ments suggesting benefit be withheld from any claimant unable to prove entitlement.

Mr Boyd, social security group president of the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, said: The Government wants to treat all claimants like 'bogus' asylum-seek ers: if you cannot prove your entitlement, you will be writ-

ten-off."
One obstacle to such open mind on this, despite the Government's wafer-thin

majority. A DSS spokeswoman described as speculation the unions' warning of wide-spread job losses, insisting that the department remained intent on avoiding compulsory redundancies where possible. Suggestions of radical change in the claiming process were also specula

Judge dismisses criticisms of arms-to-Iraq inquiry as 'ludicrous'



Sir Richard Scott arriving at the inquiry headquarters in Victoria; central London, yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES | Waiting in silence, page 9

Scott goes on the attack

Richard Norton-Taylor and Michael White

SIR Richard Scott last night went on the offen-sive in the face of an orchestrated attack on his forthcoming report on the arms-to-lraq scandal, describing some of the criticisms levelled at him by former cabinet ministers as "ludicrous"

under intense pressure to back down over arrangements for the publication of the judge's report, Sir Rich-ard dismissed claims by Lord Howe and Douglas Hurd — two former foreign secretaries — that his procedures were unfair and that wit-nesses were subjected to ag-

gressive questioning
He told BBC2's Newsnight
It was "ludicrous to suppose the questioning was aggres sive". He said witnesses had legal help and advance notice be asked, and had had the chance to respond to any proposed criticisms of their

conduct.
If their lawyers had been allowed to cross examine every other witness, as Lord Howe was demanding, the inquiry would never have finished its work, he said. "We'd still be there. It would have been ludicrous.

'it would have been a circus both in the Roman sense and in the Bertram Mills

The Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, put her weight behind demands that MPs should be able to read Sir Richard's conclusions before ministers put their own gloss on it. Labour is furious that the report will be available to its frontbench spokesmen only 30 minutes Turn to page 4, column 7

200 feared dead after change would be a need for it to be effected by legislation. Mr Lilley is said to have an illegal flight crashes

FLORIDA\

ian Traynor in Bonn and Keith Harper

LMOST 200 people, mostly German tour-ists, were believed dead last night in the shark-in-fested waters of the Caribbean after an illegal flight by a chartered Boeing-757 crashed just off the Domini-can Republic.

The German authorities sald the Boeing, chartered by the Alas Nacionales airline, had no licence to fly to Berlin and Frankfurt, its destina-tions, and had no landing permission. Early reports that the plane was not insured were unclear last night.

ted to fly to Germany," said Volker Mattern of the Gering at the conclusion of an man transport ministry. "Before it flies, the airline must contact the air authorities in the target country and Alas Nacionales did not do that."

Alas sub-chartered the plane at the last minute from the Turkish airline Birgenair. after the Boeing-767 the passengers were meant to return on developed an hydraulic pump fault. Birgenair operates closely with the Hamburg-based Oeger Tours, the

try spokesman said that the 767 had flying permission for The fact that the plane took off without permission looked

debate over budget tour said the Turkish pilot sought operators. Rolf Rehberg of the pilots'

BAHANIAS

association, Cockpit, said last night there were many questions to be asked about Birgenair's Caribbean operation.

There were no known survivors among the 176 passengers and 13 crew. About 80 corpses were recovered by rescue teams, led by the United States coastguard from Miami, but the German foreign ministry said it did not expect any survivors, and the presence of sharks in the area, near the notorious Bermuda Triangle, was hindering the rescue effort.

The Boeing disappeared within three minutes of take chiatrists were off from the republic's Puerto offer treatment.

to turn back shortly after take-off. The plane then disappeared from the radar screens. 14 miles off the coast.

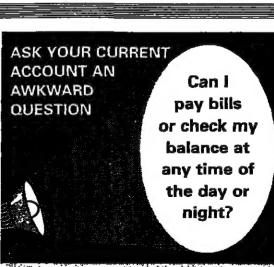
DOMINICAN REP.

PUERTO

RICA

At least half of the seats on the flight had been booked by Oeger tours, a Hamburg tour operator. The company's owner. Vural Oeger, said it appeared the plane had been struck by lightning. But Ger-man officials said a thick film of oil miles wide at the crash site meant there was neither an explosion nor fire.

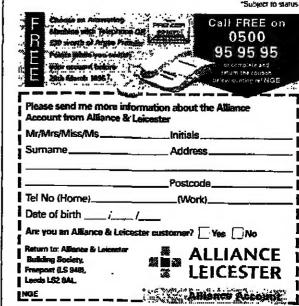
anguish at Berlin and Frank furt airports yesterday as relatives and friends waited for chiatrists were on hand to



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Irish 'Dayton' rejected

David Sharrock and Michael White

NGLO-IRISH relations plunged deep into crisis last night when the British Government rejected Dublin's proposals for a Bosnia-style international conference on Northern Ireland. lrish officials accused

Downing Street of lacking the

will to honour a commitment

to reaching all-party talks within the next three weeks. In Washington today the Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, will attempt to bring US pressure to bear on Downing Street by enlisting President Clinton's support for the two-day "Dayton-style" talks, which he suggests could be

held in Belfast. Unionist reaction was hostile, denouncing the proposal as a ploy to allow nationalists | Mr Spring's idea, but that the

and Sinn Fein to duck the challenge of an elective body. The Northern Ireland minister. Michael Ancram, described the proposal as "at best, premature.

He added: "We have never believed that there is any purpose in moving forward un-less there is a good chance of that move succeeding." This prompted some Dublin

sources to claim that Downing Street's idea of a peace process meant moving only at a pace chosen by the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble. And they shrugged off claims that the timing of Mr Spring's announcement was a stunt timed to coincide with his Washington trip.

In a mood of growing desperation, one source alleged that the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, "didn't want to know" about

alternative to not publicising it would have been to admit that both sides are once more in deadlock. Earlier Mr Spring, speak-

Anglo-Irish meeting in Dublin, said his plan for a confer-ence similar to that held in Dayton, Ohio, last year to end the Bosnia war was "a central way to proceed."

It would bring together, on a voluntary basis, all the parties and the two governments for two days on a "proximity basis" which would leave participants free to decide with whom they wished to enter discussions. The ground to be covered

by the conference would in-clude last month's Mitchell report on decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, and whether or how elections could play a part in such negotiations.

biggest seller in Germany of holidays in Turkey. A German transport minis-Germany, but the replacement did not.

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Sketch

Nicely nasty in the British way



Simon Hoggart

HE Civil Service faces a few unpleasant surprises with the publication of the Scott Report next week, so it seemed a good idea to listen to the country's most senior civil servant, Sir Robin Butler. He was giving evidence to the Select Committee on Pub-

lic Service.
"Giving evidence" sounds awfully formal, implying sol-enm oaths and cross-examination. Naturally it was more of a civilised chat. Sir Robin is a tremendously nice person. with a relaxed, affable manner. The MPs were just as nice. I have seen tougher grill-ings on Anthea Turner's

couch. No doubt drinks before dinner at Ditchley Park catch the same mood: the faintly taut not know each other well, but are confident they are on equal terms with the elite.

The whole event was wonderfully British. I realised that there is a separate language called British. in which English vocabulary is used to express different concepts, sometimes the opposite of

what is apparently being said. Nobody is ever rude to anyone in British; the words don't exist. For instance. Sir Robin mentioned that he had been examining the civil service structure in New Zealand. Peter Ainsworth (C. Surrey E) said: "I am sure that the exam-

ple of New Zealand repays close study." In English, this would mean what it says. In British, it sig-nifies: "Stop boring on about the colonies and get back to the subject." British is an exeven when it is at its most offensive.

Tony Wright (Lab, Cannock) reminded Sir Robin that Lord Howe had said that the

Sir Robin: "I have made no public criticism of the proceout." This is British for "Yes

of course I agree. In John Gunnell (Lab. Leeds S) urned to the topic of Michael Reseltine. He was trying to discern how much power

Hezza has now acquired. Sir Robin suggested that the Deputy PM was "taking, as part of his activities, the day-

Of course this did not include many issues, such as senior appointments — "there I still deal directly with the Prime Minister

If there had been a English-British interpreter, he would have translated: "If you seriously imagine that Hezza has got his hands on anything that really matters, you need your head read." Mr Ainsworth mentioned

that Hezza had suggested civil servants should be more nu-merate. "I do know that Mr Heseltine does act through the presentation of diagrams and figures, and would like more essays, or verbiage!" Sir Robin said.

This is British for the English: "Fellow can barely read; you literally have to do a drawing if you want him to understand anything." MPs asked about morale

among junior civil servants going. They might as well have inquired about morale among the elves in Santa's workshop. "The fascination is undi-

minished, and may be enhanced!" Sir Robin exclaimed. "These are marvellous jobs, not just the top jobs. They are important for our society." My Anglo British phrase-

book says that means: "If we can convince them that even having one of the bottom jobs provides a rosy glow, they won't want promotion. Someone asked whether Sir Robin thought himself the best

judge of morale among the lower orders. "No, I said 'you could ask someone like me'. ish: "Do you think I would dream of asking them? Do you Labour leader pledges elected mayors and devolution for Scotland and Wales in constitutional shake-up

Hereditary peers 'face axe'









Kings and their bastard kin . . . Clockwise from top, Charles II and William IV, and Charles 11's illegitimate descendants, the Duke of Grafton (by Barbara Villiers), and the Duke of Richmond (by Louise de Keroualle)

Blair refuses to back PR reform

Chief Political

ONY BLAIR yester-day issued a sting-ing attack on the hereditary peerage system, saying Britate an upper chamber of Par-liament in which Tory voting fodder held seats not by merit but because a 300 year-old an-cestor might have been "the mistress of a monarch".

Making a wide-ranging speech to popularise Labour's sweeping programme of constitutional reform, the party leader also for the first time raised the prospect of Labour's proposed elected chamber containing som pointed peers of high quality. He again refused personally

to endorse proportional repre sentation, but praised the principle of co-operation with the Liberal Democrats on this agenda, and for the first time backed elected mayors for Britain's big cities.

Mr Blair said as a first step Labour would reform the Lords by removing the right of hereditary peers to vote, before the party moved, at an unfixed date, to establish an elected second chamber of parliament

They would also be barred from the dining rooms and bars of the Lords, but would be allowed to keep their titles, Labour officials said.

Hereditary peers were the "least defensible part of the British constitution", Mr Blair argued.
"It is in principle wrong

and absurd that people should wield power on the basis of birth, not merit or election. What is more, there are over 300 official Tory hereditary peers, 12 Labour and 24 Lib eral Democrat. Hundreds more rarely appear, but if they did we could be sure very few would side with Labour or the Liberal Democrats. This is plainly and in-controvertibly politically

plased."

It was the hereditaries he pointed out, and not the ap-pointed life peers, who had

From the wrong side of the blanket supported the poll tax.
Giving the first John Smith emorial lecture, Mr Blair and has been a chancellor tralised state in the West where people felt "no owner The Earl of Munster owes ship, no stake in much of the his coronet to the good political process

He conceded that elected mayors would be controversial within the party, but said they were one way to redress the "dangerous loss of civic

pride" in many areas. On PR, Mr Blair said: "Some feel strongly about the case for reform and point to the Tory governments elected on a minority of the vote, and Williamson of Debrett's. the fact that smaller parties get squeezed under the cur-rent system. I do not dismiss such arguments. But in truth I have never been persuaded that under proportional representation we can avoid a situation where small parties end up wielding dispropor-

tionate power. "This is a serious debate and views on it cross the boundaries of almost all political parties. That is why we are committed to holding a referendum on it."

He defended Labour's plan to have a different devolution Wales, saying "they are different countries with different countries wi

ent histories". The Welsh Office was a recent creation and there was very little sepa-rate Welsh legislation. Scot-land on the other hand had had its own parliament for

hundreds of years.

He promised Labour would not impose higher taxes on Scotland unless it had pledged to do so in the elec-

His stance on PR was praised as a sign of limited movement by Robert Maclen-nan, the Liberal Democrat president, who is holding in-formal talks with Labour on post-election co-operation on constitutional reform.

In a counter-attack, the Conservative chairman Brian Mawhinney, to the delight of Labour, defended the beredi-

Reconstitution

LABOUR'S constitutional

☐ Introduce tax raising parliament for Scotland and assembly for Wales with no tax raising powers. Legisla-tion to be passed in first year, with parliament in place in 18 months

Convention of Human Rights into UK law, allow ing citizens to enforce it in

End right of hereditary peers to speak and vote in Lords. Some hard working hereditary peers to be ap-pointed life peers. An elected second chamber with no extra powers — at unspectfied date

☐ All party group to draft full hill of rights

☐ Reform of official secrets

□ English assembites to be set up only where supported in local referendums : ***--

☐ Referendum on propor-tional representation for elections to Commons

☐ Lift rate capping, introduce annual elections and examine case for elected

tary principle, arguing that Labour's plans threatened the

stability of the country. "It is quite simply the politics of class-driven envy.

cal, immature and damag-ing," Dr Mawhinney said. Lord Mancroft, a member of the Conservative peers' executive and a hereditary peer. said Labour wanted to replace "George IV's drinking cro-nies" with "Harold Wilson's

Robin Cook, the shadow for-eign secretary, replied that nothing "could illustrate more clearly the Tories" defence of a tiny elite than Mr Mawhinney's support for the right of aristocrats to vote through laws for the rest of us because they were born into the right families".

"Maybe somebody should remind Mr Mawhinney that some of these peerages began as recognition of the success robbers," Mr Cook said.

First night

Gawky guy who found his balls

Robert Yates

Lyric Theatre, London

EOPLE over-analyse motivation in comedy. according to Lee Evans In his case, the reason for per-forming was straight forward. He wasn't much liked, people were after him, and making them laugh was a way to get by In short: "I had curly hair and I was a twod."

Evans still works from this premise — he remains the gawky guy anxious to please a hostile world. The problem is that, in the face of Evans's success, it's a difficult act to sustam. Perrier Award winner in 1990, his own TV series, an impressive film debut in last year's Funny Bones, and now a six-week West End run. It's tricky to play the loser when the evidence suggests that

you're anything but. Perhaps that explains why the show's first half talls flat. Evans is so determined to perstrade us that the success hasn't gone to his head, and he's still a mixed-up flop, that he overdoes the hesitations and apologies. If there's aggressive self-deprecation, this is it.

The hesitations are part of a signature style which, if observed off stage, might be diagnosed as a mild form of Tourette's Syndrome, made up of an army of apparently involuntary gestures. In terms of patter, it's less a narrative flow than a series of false starts, as if Evans is

Meridiana

merely the channel for a gang of people having an argument "I'm all over the shop," he says at one stage, deciding he needs to add to the voices by becoming his own critic too. "It needs a bit of work," is his

indgment on the set piece which breaks up the patter This involves a sketch centred on a line of spinning plates. At least three dukes and which he performs twice an earl, who don ermine robes and are entitled to sit the second time in slow motion, when we are meant to ee what we missed before. in the upper chamber, owe their places on the red leather benches to nothing which is some convoluted horseplay between Evans and

dressed as a woman. tine before its time, that in years to come it will be resurrected as a classic. On the night, however, the consensu was that it was twaddle in search of a ioke.

an assistant, a bulky guy

Then during the interval something happened. From the start of the second half the act was transformed. The boundless energy finds direcmidway, but make it to their punchline And the style is entirely in the service of the Evans's celebrated mimic

animal behaviour. These clidogs, and why they chase balls harder than their intact friends. The park game becomes a canine tragedy: the dogs will never be happy, unlike Evans, who closes in sparkling form. He, at least, eventually found his balls. This review appeared in later editions vesterday.

Absentee legislators

☐ In the last parliamentary session, between November 1994 and November 1995, 357 hereditary peers attended on fewer than half of the 142 red leather benches

parliamentary days

Another 152 hereditary "VEN among the Lords' unelected ranks of he-reditary privilege, one clutch of peers is conspicu-ous in owing its good fortune to anything but public

peers did not take the Oath of Allegiance, meaning that in total more than 500 failed to turn up for more than half the Lords sessions. A lord who has not taken the oath may

reditary peers actually voting voted 11,984 times with the Government and only 3,066 times against. Moreover, 43.9 per cent of hereditary peers did not attend any session of the house. Only 11.3 per cent of life peers failed to attend

not sit, speak or vote in the

☐ In 1988-89 an academic

study found that the 369 he-

chamber for a long time," said Lord Graham of Edmonton. Labour's chief whip and a former MP, who has been a life peer since only 1983. "I hope their mothers claimed maternity

allowances" Charles II may not have been the first, but he was one of the most generous, in ennobling children born of his mistresses. Four of

them were made dukes. The first Duke of St Albans, Debrett's Peerage notes, was the "natural son" of the monarch by one tributed anything in the Eleanor Gwynn — better

known to history as Nell. His descendant glories in the title of Hereditary Grand Falconer of England

but holds no other public traces his parentage back to the "second natural son" of Charles II by Barbara Villiers. He has held positions on architectural and

Another royal halfbrother was the first Duke

"But one of the Earls of Munster did win a VC."

Let pupils study pop culture, but don't Blur the distinctions, says curriculum adviser

The Duke of Grafton church bodies.

mother was Louise de Keroualle. The current holder of the | peers.

ing to Who's Who. "It was common as late as the 17th century for kings to raise their friends to the peerage," observed David

> cut little ice with Lord Gra-ham. 'The vast majority of the hereditary peers, say 300 out of 500, take no part at all in the House," he "Only 12 hereditary

of Sussex University.

looks and charm of the 18th

century comic actress, Mrs

Jordan, who had a son by William IV in 1794. The present earl is a stained

glass conservator, accord-

peers take the Labour whip. The vote for the poll only won with the support of hereditary peers. In 19 out of 20 votes in the Upper Richmond, whose House, the Government only wins because of the support of hereditary

SCHOOLCHILDREN should be taught the superiority of Schubert over their more likely choice of Britpop idols like Blur, the Government's chief curriculum adviser said last night. The dead sheep sculpture

chequered routes

more than the fact that they are the descendants of

As Labour yesterday questioned the legitimacy

of hereditary peers to remain in parliament, con-

stitutional experts pointed to the illegitimate offspring

of Charles II and William

IV as outstanding examples

of unearned status in the

Lords.
"Some peers haven't con-

to a place on the

utive of the School Curricu lum and Assessment Authority, said. The dominant view, he told a conference in London, was that there were "no differ-

sheep at the Tate"

He went on: "Until recently, hardly anyone would have doubted that judgments can and should be made about the intrinsic values of works of

from it. "What I am suggesting is that [educators] should give

these things their proper value as the best that has been known and thought." Dr Tate's emphasis on

by Turner Prize winner ences in value between, say. art. I am not suggesting that moral values in education has Damien Hirst was a further Schubert's Ave Maria and the young people should spend all risked distracting attention

example of a prevailing "cul- latest Blur release, between their time studying Jane Austural relativism" which failed Milton and Mills and Boon, or ten and Shakespeare or listentiang, chairman of the School to recognise enduring artistic between Vermeer's View of ing to Bach and Mozart. Far Curriculum and Advisory Curriculum and Advisory Authority.

Sir Ron has been concentrating on exam reforms perceived by Conservative MPs as devaluation of the A level "gold standard"

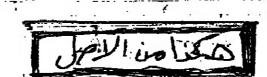
Murdoch Professor of Lan-

guage and Communication at Oxford University, who this week outlined her permissive views on spoken English in the BBC Reith Lectures, last night expressed concern at any move by the education ments about cultural issues. 'If you tell children that Mills Jean Aitchison, the Rupert | and Boon is bad, they will de-

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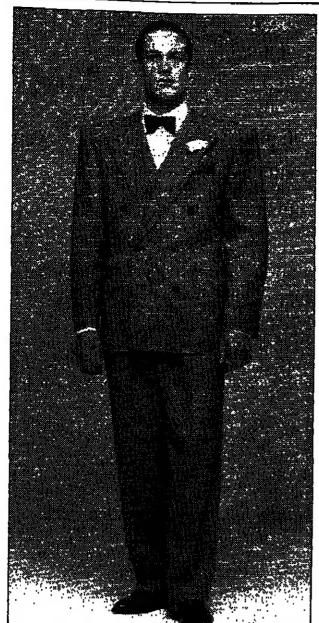




Suits C

II WAS BA kids to m









Suits oust scruffs in office fashion stakes

'Blazers, sports jackets, leather jackets and flannels are not acceptable . . . ' Sally Weale on the new conservatism

ing down for work, the traditional shirt and sober tie are making a comeback in Britain's

Having experimented unsuccessfully with the Ameri-

workers at the North-East here saying we can be groovy traffic area office in Leeds, it here too, and everyone was been told that tracksuits. "But it has had very mixed shorts and T-shirts are out. results in Britain. Most of the Shirt, tie and smart trousers are now the order of the day; women have been told to wear "the female equivalent". A circular to workers has advised that earrings are out

for men, nose-rings are for-bidden whatever your sax, and shirts should be neatly tucked into trousers.

"There has been a growing tendency recently for some staff to adopt an overall standard of dress which, while tidy, is more casual than the general public have come to expect from office workers,

Clerical and secretarial staff at the office, which is responsible for the road safety of lorries and coaches in the North-east, are not happy and have taken the matter up with their trade union. Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody is to protest in Parliament about what she has called a "barmy" idea.

The trend towards more caplace began in American com-

puter software houses where employees spent their days sitting in front of screens.

It began with "dress-down Fridays" when staff were encouraged to wear casual clothing for just one day, then spread to the rest of the week. can-pioneered casual business look, companies are increasingly introducing more conventional dress codes for staff.

"It was a product of the next culture," says image consultant Mary Spillane.
"The whole of America became Slob Zone International. Among those affected are 53 Then managers came over

> "But it has had very mixed companies that had it are rescinding it. Everyone's sliding back into more traditional dress. It might be great for staff morale, but it's not good for business."

> Nevertheless, American companies in Britain such as IBM still endorse casual dress. "It's smart-casual really," says IBM's Anne Keogh, who was wearing polo-neck sweater, brown linen skirt and smart Jaeger

Jeans, garish T-shirts and trainers are not allowed, but almost anything else goes, including long hair and ear-rings for men. 'It's whatever is appropriate for your cus-tomers. But 90 per cent of people still come in suits anyway.

At Ford, likewise, there is little appetite for the uncon-ventional. After the management let it be known last year that a more casual dress code was to be introduced, there was little if any detectable change in what Ford's 33,000



DRESSING SHARPLY: Body piercing is unacceptable

Likewise at Mercury Com-munications, the notion of dress-down Fridays quickly disappeared. "We don't have a dress code," said company pokesman Stephen Powers (pin-stripe suit).

"We'd probably raise an eyebrow if someone came in a Destroy T-shirt or a black bin liner. We just like our employees to look smart and respectable, but feel comfortable."

In City law firms, however, the tide has turned decisively.

UK employees were. 'It has | Solicitors DJ Freeman not swept the company by recantly fold male employees storm," said one Ford man. rings, nose rings and similar and hair should be short. "All male fee earners

should wear a suit — prefers bly in grey or navy suitable tie and shirt. Blazers, sports jackets, leather jackets and fiannels are not accept-able." For women, the code stipulates a dress or suit (trousers are acceptable if tailored).

"First impressions are important and the dress code merely emphasises this," said Christine Parker, head of personnel

The ins and outs of office wear

What's allowed:

□ Traditional M&S dark suit and tie expected and often insisted on by many companies, especially City and law firms.

☐ "Dress-down Fridays", imported to Britain by American companies, allows for more relaxed clothing as the weekend approaches, such as open-necked shirts and casual trousers, not ripped jeans, T-shirts and trainers.

 Long hair for men but only in the more liberal companies. Last month Norfolk ambulanceman Paul Holden felt obliged to chop off his pony-tail in the face of managerial disapproval.

☐ Alan Partridge-style sports-casual (notwithstanding objections on the grounds of bad taste). As long as it's smart, clean and conventional

it's acceptable. And what isn't

☐ Men in skirts — all right for the likes of Gaultier and Galliano. but unacceptable in the office, as prison alcohol counsellor Bobi Elmes discovered when he turned up for work in a

mini-skirt and was sacked.

☐ Body piercing — for either men or women (at least not the bits that show). Men can probably get away with discreet earrings in more liberal companies but nose studs are a definite no-no.

□ Traditional whites on the cricket pitch first players went multi-coloured, now umpires like Dickie Bird and David Shepherd will be seen sporting lemon shirts and black coats.

🗆 Jeans, vests, Destroy T-shirts, shell-suits, Linford Christie-style cycling shorts and trainers.

🗆 Also unpopular –

baggy shorts. Hawaiian shirts, bondage trousers and almost anything designed by Vivienne Westwood circa 1976.

Bigger white list tightens asylum rules

Alan Travis Home Affairs Edito

CHAEL Howard is to shut the door on asylum seekers from three more countries by extending the official "white list" to include Ethiopia. Kenya

Tanzania.
The disclosure that the Home Office wants to extend the current seven-strong white list of "safe countries" is contained in a "restricted" internal Foreign Office guidance document signed by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, which has been eaked to the Guardian.

More than 3,425 asylum applications were received from the three countries last year. But only 59 applicants were given asylum or exceptional leave to remain.

The document also shows that the Foreign Office did not give its immediate back-ing to the inclusion of India and Pakistan on the original list announced by the Home Secretary in the Commons last November.

The Home Office last night refused to comment on a leaked document but said the white list was "designed to be flexible so countries could be added or subtracted according to the changing situta-tion." A spokesman denied any disagreements with the Foreign Office but confirmed "it was not unusual for discussions to take place be-

tween departments".

The inclusion of a particular country in the white list means that asylum claims from its citizens are, according to the document, "likely to be refused".

The leaked document makes clear that the key cri-terion for a country to be in-

cluded in the white list is not its human rights record but the volume of asylum claims it generates and the rate at which the Home Office refuses them.

The document shows that the Home Office proposed a 10-strong list of countries it wanted included on the initial white list. They were: Bul-garia, Cyprus, Ghana, Poland, Romania, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Pakistan and Tanzania. In the event, Mr Howard announced that thousands of asylum applications from seven of the 10 countries would be presumed to be bo-

would be presumed to be bo-gus unless proved otherwise. But last night Amnesty In-ternational said it believed the leaked document confirmed the Home Office's ambition to extend the list to the

other three countries as well. Amnesty's refugee officer. Richard Dunstan, said: "This shows that the Home Office has a clear intention to excurrent asylum bill is on the statute book to include countries where there are serious human rights

The Home Office has paved the way for the inclusion of the three countries on the white list by introducing a visa requirement for Tanzania last month and by inclusion of all three in a new ac-celerated "short procedure" being used for claimants arriving at Gatwick airport.

The inclusion of Kenya will cause particular concern. ast year Baroness Chalker as Overseas Aid Minister. said there were "still grounds for concern" about the Moi regime. Amnesty says that torture and ill-treatment by the security forces are widespread.

Chunnel rail link firm faces inquiry in new sell-off blow

Rebecca Smithers and Kelth Harper

THE Government-owned company planning the Channel Tunnel rail link is being investigated over al-leged "improper processes", it was revealed yesterday. vatisation could further stall the progress of the long-de-layed 68-mile line.

The inquiry into the former British Rail subsidiary Union Railways, being carried out by its auditors Price Waterhouse, involves financial dis-crepancies in the company's

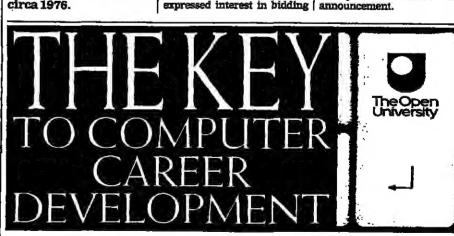
internal buying procedures. Union Railways said only small sums were involved. the Guardian last night that "several hundred thousand pounds" were involved. It also emerged last night that Resurgence Railways has

for other rallway franchises particularly South East Rail, a London commuter line.

The company was the Government's preferred bidder to run the Great Western route. but the bid fell when questions were raised about its suitability to run the passen-ger franchise. Its managing director, John Ansdell, was one of two directors of a double glazing company, which went bust eight months ago.

The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, had hoped to announce the private sec-tor winner of the competition to build the Channel Tunnel link next week. The new operator will take over Union Railways and European Pasoperator of the high-speed Eurostar trains.

The Department of Transport said the inquiry was "unlikely" to affect the



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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

l'Il see you in court, duchess tells Bryan

Former confidant 'may sue' for share of multi-million-pound Budgie income

Gary Younge and Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

n advisor

HE Duchess of York promised yesterday to fight her former confidant, John Bryan, in court if he attempted to sue her for a share of the multi-millionpound US deal to market her cartoon character Budgie the

Mr Bryan, aged 40, who like the duchess faces severe fi-nancial difficulties, has instructed his lawyers in Frankfurt to examine details of the duchess's US agree ments. He is reported to be demanding 10 per cent of the spective income from her car-global earnings from the chil-toon character Budgie. She

dren's character, arguing that he was instrumental in turning it into a lucrative product. He is said to be claiming that the duchess promised him a third of all her earnings from Budgie's TV, film and pub-lishing rights.

Last night Mr Bryan's German lawyer, Armin Groep-per, said that "purely theoret-ically" it was conceivable that Mr Bryan could sue the duchess in Germany. "As you know, under English law, you can't sue the royal house." However, a spokeswoman for the duchess said: "Her

Royal Highness denies abso-lutely any agreement with Mr

Bryan concerning the pro-

tiate on the subject."

A source at the animation and merchandising company Sleepy Kids, which holds the world exclusive marketing rights for Budgie, said: "In

1992 the Duchess of York sold us the rights for Budgle for 15 years.
"Mr Bryan was definitely heavily involved in the negotiations for the deal. But nowhere was he officially acknowledged and he is not named in the deal. The case

would depend entirely on whatever contract he had with the duchess." Sources close to the duchess say Mr Bryan was paid when the original £2.5 million contract was signed with Sleepy Kids.

But Mr Bryan has been

she was always worrying. Anxiety just seemed to grow inside her.

were lawyers doing all her deal and administrators for charites and everything else — all on my buck." Mr Bryan's financial affairs

are under strain after the collapse of his property com-pany, Oceonics Deutschland. He set up the German com-pany in 1990 at a time when interest rates were high and when property prices nose-dived. It crashed last summer and his business partner, Allan Starkie, was arrested for an alleged £90,000 fraud.

Mr Bryan, a Texan, is Bryan had left for destina-reported to owe £6,414 to his tions unknown. solicitors, Penningtons, more than £3,000 in rent on a pent-house in Chelsea, and almost £2,000 in unpaid bills to Brit-Buf Mr Bryan has been ish Telecom and British Gas. her former friem reported as saying: "Half of Last year American Express ite Lily Mahtani.

will therefore defend vigor-ously any proceedings which Mr Bryan might choose to ini-tiate on the subject."

my staff were working for her and it was all coming out of my pocket. A lot of people were hired just for her. There
were hired just for her. There
currently thought to be in

Los Angeles, he leads some-thing of a nomadic existence, but is often seen in Beverly Hills and Bel-Air. He sometimes stays at the five-star Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills, where rooms start a \$325 a night and rise to \$3,000. but has not visited recently. He also stays with friends

in Bel-Air, an exclusive community which regards its neighbour Beverly Hills rather flashy. But although he was in residence recently, an aquaintance said Mr

Meanwhile, the duchess has a £3 million overdraft with Coutts bank and faces the prospect of being sued by

It was early morning when they came to get her. She had just stumbled out of bed, heading for the kitchen, turning on the TV, calling out to the kids to make sure they were OK, and then the door bell rang. It was bound to worry her. It was too early for any normal visitor. And besides, Company

G2 cover story

The Scott report: key players in the spotlight...

Prime Minister: was Foreign Secretary and Chancellor when discussed in Whitehall. His role: was given a paper which suggested that arms export

elaxed. Was warned by former machine tool companies had bee given a "nod and wink" to export to Iraq. When Matrix Churchill, was prosecuted by Customs for exporting to traq and the trial collapsed in 1992, Major, as PM. set up the Scott inquiry. Scott's likely verdict: gave mation to MPs about export policy towards Iraq. His defence: he was not told the details or did not remember.



Treasury: was Foreign Office minister, 1988-90, responsible for elations with Iraq and Ilaison with MI6. Civil Service minister responsible for open governmer when he gave evidence to the

change in export guidelines. Approved Matrix Churchill machine tool exports knowing from MI6 reports, they would be Scott's likely verdict: he misled MPs, but perhaps not "deliberately". Wrong in insisting

change - just interpretation of



responsible for Whitehall lewyers who handled Matrix Churchill had a duty to sign Public Interest

lesigned to withhold information would have helped the Matrix Scott's likely verdict: (alled to ensure that Michael Heseltine's doubts about signing Pilis were, passed to MC prosecution. Had a

was Trade and Industry for export licences. His role: signed Pli certificates before the Ordiec and Matrix Churchili prosecutions, but would tail after hearing Paul Henderson, main Matrix Churchil lefandent, was MIG informant Scott's likely verdict: should have been more rigorous about Pil advice from Sir Nicholas , and should have paid more attention

badily advised



Secretary, 1992-93, then able for MI6 as well as

His role; signed two Pil. triel. Claimed at inquiry that Innocent lives would be at risk if evidence covered by Pils was disclosed. Sald he would would Scott's likely verdict; acted in good faith, but adopted a too

had no effect on the trial. Acted in



Secretary, 1992-96. His role: Signed a PII certific Conceded at the inquiry that ninisters in "standard form, eve though they were drawn up to mply they were the result of a minister's personal value

in good faith, on bad advice. His lefence: Acted in good faith,



Deputy Prime Minister: was Trade and industry Secretary. 1992-85, telding over from Lilley. File rote: rejuctantly signed PII certificate after originally refusion Warned it would look as though he was engaged in a "cover up". Said "no rational person" would exed. Undermined Sir Nicholas Lyell at the inquiry. Scott's fikely verdict: Praise

for questioning advice about Pil the way PII certificates are handed to ministers by Whitehall awwers at short notice.



of the civil service responsible for running Whitehall and ensuring intelligence reports are properly distributed. His role: advised that Whitehalf documents should not be disclosed to the Matrix Churchill defence, and falled to ensure

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Still

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time to the prosecution. the buck and avoided the question of who should take responsibily for any misleading of Parliams ministers or civil servants. constitutional principles. Could not interfere with independence of

Whitehall builds Scott fallout shelter

should Public Interest Immunity certificates — the so-called gagging orders — be used in a blanket fashion by ministers attempting to suppress evidence in a criminal possible", said Mr Cook. Sir Robin Butler told MPs whether to allow civil servented by that he would be accompanied by the first strength of the work o over handling of report

picked civil ser vants from across Whitehall will ing a damage limitation exercise for government ministers over Sir Richard Scott's fivevolume report into the arms-

The team will draw up guidance for government whips to distribute to Tory MPs, and prepare a media pack to be handed to journalists as soon as the report is officially pub-lished next Thursday.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, has agreed with Sir Richard that only those who have given a written assurance that they will keep it to themselves will receive advance copies of the report. They include individuals expected to be criticised by the judge, notably William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and former Ms Symons said they have Foreign Office minister, and been told to clear their state-

Civil servants who are expected to be criticised are as furious as Labour over the handling of the report. Liz Sy-mons, general secretary of the First Division Association

which represents senior offi-cials, yesterday described the

'It is of paramount importance that ministers give truthful information to the House'

arrangements as "thoroughly inequitable". Although civil servants named in the report have been given the unprecedented right to defend themselves in public. Whitehall managers have imposed strict condi-

the Attorney General. Sir ments with their departments Nicholas Lyell. and say "nothing contrary to and say "nothing contrary to

government policy". Robin Cook, shadow for-eign secretary told John Major to call a halt to what he called the "Tory campaign" to undermine the inquiry in the face of a series of attacks on the way Sir Richard conducted the inquiry from two former foreign secretaries, Lord Howe and Douglas

Lord Howe has described the inquiry as "the only one in history where lawyers were allowed to be seen and not heard". Mr Hurd said the Government may not accept all the recommendations in Sir Richard's report.

Scott inquiry which worries the Tories, but its thoroughness", said Mr Cook. He said Labour would demand that the Government accepted Sir Richard's conclusions in full and acted on all his recommendations. Mr Cook singled out Sir

"It is not the fairness of the

being of much greater long-term significance than the fate of individuals. Richard's expected recom-

countable for his actions The other key issue, said Mr Cook, would be whether Sir Richard has concluded whatever the findings of the Scott inquiry says.
Sir Robin, the first civil ser that guidelines on exports of vant to have access yesterday to the final report, was being questioned by the Commons public services select commitarms to Iraq were changed and whether ministers de-ceived Parliament. He referred to a letter by Mr Major to the Labour MP,

Giles Radice, in 1994, in

which the Prime Minister said: "It is clearly of para-

mount importance that minis

ters gice accurate and truth-ful information to the House".

Mr Cook also pointed to un-

precedented evidence the in-

uiry had discovered about

the hidden workings of gov-ernment — issues which Sir

Richard has emphasised as of

tee on the future of Whitehall last night. He told Glies Radice, its Labour chairman: "I will be accountable for its findings

Most MPs believe Mr Major added: "If they knowingly fail to do this, then they should relinquish their that ministers will positions except in the quite put their gloss on exceptional circumstances of which a devaluation or time the report before of war or other danger to national security have been quoted as examples". publication date

> but as to responsibility I shall cross that bridge when I come He said he hoped that there would not be premature cov-

erage of the report in the

"The Scott report is about deny that a decision had been standards in public life and taken not to allow civil ser-

"No decision has been made", he said. But most MPs and journalists believe that ministers will not be able to resist the temptation to put their gloss on the report before official

Tory MPs will be particu-larly anxious to find out what Sir Richard says about the handling of the prosecution of three former Matrix Churchill directors. Four serving cabinet ministers signed Public Interest Immunity certificates which, if upheld by the trial judge, could have led to the businessmen being un-

Labour is concerned as much by what Sir Richard says about why ministers repeatedly misled Parliament as about what the real policy was on arms exports to Iraq.

Documents disclosed at the Scott inquiry showed that the

justly imprisoned.

Government was mainly con-cerned about the outcry the disclosure of the shift in policy would have provoked as a result of Saddam Hussein's gassing of Iraqi Kurds.

Judge hits back at criticisms

continued from page 1 before the Commons debate

begins.
Miss Boothroyd took the rare step of making her feel-ings known after Labour and the Liberal Democrats had complained bitterly about news management designed to get ministers — but not civil servants — off the hook in the controversy over covert arms sales and the abortive trials of businessmen. Although she stressed the timing was a matter for the Government, the cabinet secretary, Sir Robin Butler, last night hinted that no final de-

cisions had been taken as 25 copies of the final 1,800-page report were sent to the cabi-net office by Sir Richard. The judge made plain he had not wished to give the Government copies eight days in advance. It gives ministers "eight days to find ways of shifting the blame," foreign secretary, led a drive

| He told John Major to stop the mine the inquiry".

Ministers have stressed that the report will be pub-lished, not as a department paper, but as a House of Com-mons document under the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act, expressly to give it cast iron protection from any threat of libel actions.

It will be issued at 3.30pm next Thursday when Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, makes a Commons statement. The shadow leader of the House, Ann Taylor, prote yesterday that this left MPs no time to study it. Downing Street said Miss Boothroyd's remarks would be carefully considered.

But Guardian inquiries last night confirmed that - contrary to Whitehall guidance - MPs and the media could be given advance copies without jeopardising the libel pro-tection. If ministers wished they could publish it safely at any time after they have laid the appropriate return on the



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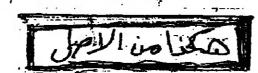
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Su Reda Berting

hetel hits back cisms

'Quiet wedding' for Parker Bowles

CAMILLA Parker Bowles's ex-husband Andrew, aged 56, yesc AMILLA Parker Bowles's ex-husband Andrew, aged 56, yes-terday married Rosemary Pitman, 54, at Chelsea register office. in London. The 10-minute wedding was supposed to be a quiet affair for close family, but news of their engagement leaked out. The retired brigadier and his bride appeared relaxed despite facing nearly 100 media representatives when they arrived by car with his daughter, Laura, 18, who was hit by the car door as she got out when a crown of photographers pushed against it. Among these attending were My Parker Rowles's son Tom.

Among those attending were Mr Parker Bowles's son Tom.
21. the Prince of Wales's godson, and the bride's three sons by her previous marriage, Henry. 33. Tom. 30, and William. 26. The wedding follows Mr Parker Bowles's divorce from Camilla. 48. last year, after her affair with Prince Charles was made public.

Cinema complexes planned

AN Anglo-American entertainment company yesterday announced plans to build 12 multiplex theatres over the next 18 months — a total of 145 screens — creating 800 jobs. Cine-UK said it planned to open a further eight Cineworld complexes over the

next five years.

The company, a consortium of the American bank JP Morgan and two British companies, said it would focus on smaller catchment areas and target "under-screened centres of population". The first will open in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, this summer, with 12 screens and 2,200 seats, followed by one in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, which is to open its 12 screens by Christmas. The Stevenage Cineworld will be part of a 22-acre leisure park which will include a bowling alley, bingo hall, night club and six restaurants.

In 1997 the company will open complexes in Bristol, Basildon, in Essex. Ashford, in Kent, Bexleyheath and Wandsworth, south London, Cardiff, Luton, Wolverhampton, Sunderland and Feltham. west London. Since 1985 more than 30 American-style muliplex cinemas have been built, providing an extra 916 screens around Britain. The expansion has coincided with a decline in the number of more traditional and smaller town centre cinemes, but in total the market is expanding, with 124 million people going to the cinema in 1994 compared with 75 million in 1985.

Dublin plans divorce bill

THE Irish government plans to introduce a bill "at the earliest possible opportunity" to permit divorce following the failure yesterday of a legal attempt to overturn the referendum vote for

Law reform minister Mervyn Taylor, who spearheaded the government campaign for a Yes vote in the nationwide poll, said after hearing the Dublin high court judgment: "I think it would be possible, given a reasonable run through parliament, to have the first applications issued by the end of this year, or early next year.

"The ruling will have come as a tremendous relief to the tens of thousands affected by marriage breakdown here," he said. Anti-divorce campaigner Des Hanafin had argued that public funds should not have been used by the government to campaign for divorce. Mr Justice Frank Murphy, president of the three-judge court, said be remained unconvinced that the government advertising campaign had materially affected the outcome of the referendum as whole.

UK accused over mudflats

BRITAIN was accused vesterday of breaking a European Union conservation directive when it failed to protect mudilats in the Medway estuary on the north coast of Kent. The Government excluded the area known as Lappel Bank, important for shelduck, ringed plover, grey plover, dunlin and redshank, when classify-

ing a wildlife preservation zone in 1993.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg is considering whether ministers were entitled to do so on economic grounds. Port authorities at Sheerness argued yesterday that expansion into the area had been necessary to keep up with foreign competition, but Carmel O'Rellly, for the EU Commission, said: "Where conservation and economic needs meet, conservation should not

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds started legal of Lords. An interim opinion is expected next month but the final verdict might not be known for months. — James Meikle

Ex-singer stands by query over dissident facing deportation • Rift follows resignation



Yusuf Islam . . . "Muslim schools have to go with a begging bowi to affluent Muslim countries because of lack of government funding" (HOTOGRAPH DAMP SILLTOK

Saudi ire shakes top Muslim school

Seumas Milne

HE future of Britain's most successful Mus-lim school, founded by Yusuf Islam, the for-mer pop singer Cat Stevens, is under threat because Saudi Arabia has withdrawn 85 per cent of its annual cash

Two months ago the Saudi ador in London complained in a private letter to defence minister Prince Sul-tan of Mr Islam's "insulting" criticisms of the Saudi

These were said to include an appeal for the release of imprisoned supporters of the dissident Mohammed al-Mas'art, who is fighting a British

public funding for the school and forcing it to seek support abroad.

Last week, children were sent home from the 300-strong Islamia School in Brent, north London, because the heating system broke down. Some 10-year-olds had to stand during science lessons yesterday because of a short-age of chairs.

But with Islamia's girls' secondary topping the league tables in Brent, there is still a waiting list of 1,000. Yusuf Islam bought the

original school premises and has been subsidising Islamia fees to the tune of £250,000 a year. Saudi Arabia donated £1.5 million to buy the current building and had been

the Saudi decision "grossly year to help plug the gap be unwarranted", but blamed tween the school's annual the Government for refusing 2450,000 fee income and its behalf of Saudi dissidents — the Saudi exile "an ominous called the decision to deport the Saudi exile "an ominous called the decision to deport the Saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an ominous called the saudi exile" called the saudi exile "an omino £750,000 budget.

This year, donations from Saudi Arabia — usually made during the month of Ramadan

ter merely expressed concern and asked for information the former musician was also have dropped to around accused of opposing the 1991
 £25,000. The cut appears to be Gulf war and failing to attend

'If I was locked up I hope someone would ask about me. It is only wishing for your brother what you wish for yourself

the Guardian last December - calling on Saudi Arabia's powerful defence minister

lan Black Diplomatic Editor

IGHT British Council

offices abroad are to close because of budget

cuts, and more may have to

hundreds of British-based

jobs and selling premises. The eight offices - in Alge

the direct result of the letter the the celebrations of the from the Saudi ambassador, kingdom's national day on 23 Ghazi al-Gusaibi — leaked to September last year.

in fact, Mr Islam's private let-

Speaking in his office at Islamia school, where he is chairman of the governors, Yusuf Islam defended the further help until we have costly decision to raise the applies to

"We try to be unbiased," he said, "but if I was locked up I

hope someone would ask

about me. It is only wishing for your brother what you wish for yourself." He said the Government had put Britain's 44 Muslim schools in a position where they had to "go with a beg-ging bowl to more affluent Muslim countries" rather

than funding them itself.
Three years ago, Islamia's bid for voluntary-aided status — in line with 7,000 Christian and 24 Jewish state schools was turned down because of a surplus of school places in on the split or say who was the new leader.

Islamic radical party splits

Kathy Evans

MAR BAKRI, leader of Britain's radical Muslim group, Hizb ut Tahrir, has resigned after a dispute about strategy towards

the Muslim community.
The rupture could have a far reaching influence on Muslim opinion.

One of the principal dis-agreements is said to have centred on Mr Bakri's desire to work with other Muslim groups to tackle problems he believed preoccupied the community, such as racism and unemployment.

Other senior Hizb members believed such an approach would divert the party from its goal of resurrecting the old Islamic caliphate in the Middle East.

Such policies reflect the party's Arab origins, though even in the Middle East the idea of an Islamic caliphate is regarded as obscure even among radicals.

Other groups said by pursuing such ideals the Hizb ut Tahrir risked becoming irrel-

evant to British Muslims. Another dispute centred on the approach to non-Muslims with whom Mr Bakri wanted to maintain a dialogue. Other to maintain a dialogue. Other senior party members believed such contacts would jeopardise "security". They wanted the party to go "underground" and have a less high profile.

Mr Bakri now says he wants to form his own party, the Muhajiroun — the Emigrants. The new party will

grants. The new party will bring together such groups as the Association of Muslim Lawyers, the Gathering of Muslim Parents and the Islamic International Front. Their profile is much more middle class and middle aged than the membership of Hizb ut Tahrir, which concentrates its activities among students. Mr Bakri says he now wants to concentrate on pene-trating the predominant Paki-

stani community and working with other British Muslim groups. Hizb ut Tahrir's deputy, Farid Qassem, a former town planner in Islington, north

be grant sem say the two parties will

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countries in Africa and Latin America — are to go at once, it emerged yesterday. But up to 20 of the council's 109 overseas operations could close. Up to 500 of the 1.300 jobs based in Britain are under threat. The council said that

Stephen Bates in Brussels

ATTEMPTS to ban imports

And British beef by three German regional governments in the wake of health scares about "mad cow" dis-ease will be challenged in the European Court of Justice in Luxeinbourg, the European Commission said yesterday. Commission officials reacted to moves by the

states' governments by threatening them with court action for breaching EU Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine Westphalia and

Bavaria have announced they are banning British beef imports because of fears the beef may transmit the incurable Creutzfeldt-lakob disease, the human form of mad cow disease, despite a federal government warning such a ban is illegal under EU law. If the German ban is challenged, officials in Brussels

may find themselves forcing the Germans to import beef that is itself banned in some parts of Britain.

claimed that a British schools' ban on beef "compli-

to close offices and axe jobs

Cash cuts force British Council

teaching English as well as arranging academic and cul-tural exchanges. Supporters say its work creates a pro-British ambience that is of unquantifiable value for

ria, Yemen and unspecified Its chairman, Sir Martin Jacomb. was given no good news when he met the Prime last week. The council has to reduce spending by £21.5 million — 17 per cent — while the Foreign Office and Overseas Development Admin-

tivities abroad was its first commitment.

The council focuses on teaching English as well as cut]: a major reduction in a cut. The council of their budgets. staffing," a council official said. "And if we can't function with reduced UK staff we then may have to close other Candidates for immediate

curity problems, little de-mand, or stiff competition, especially in Francophone Minister to discuss the crisis | regions. Expanding areas,

The council is seen as the

the Foreign Office. World Service has this great image because everyone knows what they do," said one Whitehall insider. "The British Council doesn't have

enough PR comph." Council staff are furious trade. It employs 4,200 staff overseas, all but 250 of them locally recruited.

Candidates for immediate that the cuts have come declosure are offices in countries where there are selfices and the praise heaped on them at last year's Britain in the World conference.

Peter Daly, secretary of the council's trade union, said: "We relocated 650 jobs to Manchester in 1992. We've got rid retirement. We feel we've done our bit to get a leaner and istration have lost only about poor relation of the BBC more modern organisation.

Germans will face European court over Martin Linton 'mad cow' ban

maintaining "front line" ac-

the Guardian.

23 per cent say the Conserva half say no party at all. A year and a half ago, when

confirmed in April and September 1995. Brian Maman, constantly calls it "the biggest fall in 40 years".

Labour's front bench has pointed out that, although crime figures have dropped by 10 per cent in the past two years, they have risen by 101 per cent since the Tories took office. At the same time the which party, if any, fitted the

Tories cut Labour's poll lead on law and order to one point as crime figures fall

ABOUR is still seen as the

best party on law and order, but Michael Howard. the Home Secretary, has closed the gap to only one point in the latest ICM poll for

Asked which party has the best policies for dealing with crime, 24 per cent say Labour tives, 5 per cent say the Lib-eral Democrats and nearly

Jack Straw took over from Tony Blair as shadow home secretary, Labour had a 14-point lead. The narrowing of the gap has coincided with and probably been caused by the fall in crime figures. Although they started fall-ing in 1993, this did not show

up in six-monthly figures released by the Home Office until September 1994, and was whinney, Tory party chair-

Which party has the best policies for dealing with crime? 1992 1993 1993 1994 1994 1995 Llb Dem Lab lead Home Sec'ty Baker Clarks Howard Which party, if any, fits the descriptions 'villain's frie and 'victim's friend'?

Victim's friend 11

The Tories were constantly | friend", 25 per cent saw the head of Labour on law and | Tories in this light and only ahead of Labour on law and order in the 1980s and were 14 points ahead at the last election. Tony Blair captured the lead for Labour when he was

shadow home secretary in 1993. Mr Howard recaptured it for the Tories when be became Home Secretary in 1993. but lost it again in 1994. Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, has this month tried to brand Labour as "the villain's friend" and

claim the title of "the victim's friend" for his party.

That claim is in danger of blowing up in his face. When ICM asked its respondents

13 per cent chose Labour. Only 11 per cent saw the Conservatives as "the vic-tim's friend", while 24 per

cent thought the description fitted Labour better. But a majority felt that nei-ther party fitted either de-

scription — a warning to both parties not to take the public for fools by making promises that cannot be fulfilled.

□ICM interviewed a random sample of 1.200 adults aged 18+ by telephone between February 2 and 4. Interviews were conducted throughout the country and the results have been weighted to the description "the villain's profile of all adults.

President in quandary as bellicose generals call for action Arms trade could halt American financing of \$10bn business deals

Beijing divided on Taiwan strategy

Zemin of China and his generals are seriously at odds over what to do Taiwan, according to a report in Hong Kong yester-day. The president is said to have failed to calm the desire of his generals for speedy mil-

Such a split would be a grave blow to Mr Jiang, who will need the army's backing to stay in power after the death of Deng Xiaoping, now

yesrerday the Liberation
Army Daily, the official organ
of the three million-strong
People's Liberation Army, ordered unswerving obedience to Mr Jiang. "Whatever situa-tion arises or whatever waves we meet we must be of one heart and mind and maintain the same stand as the party," said a circular issued by the central military commission.

The South China Post, Hong Kong's main English-language newspaper, said Chinese generals were "keen to push ahead with plans for a military invasion", despite warnings from Mr Jiang that haste would jeopardise Britain's handing over of Hong Kong next year and damage

The hawks are said to in-clude General Zhang Zhen, aged 81, vice-chairman of the commission, which is said to as China's dominant decision-

leaks to Hong Kong news-

Equally important is the arrival of 210 F-16s and Mirage 2000 warplanes

papers by Chinese sources. reatening military force. But it remains unclear whether they reflect intent or merely media manipulation aimed at rattling Talwan be-fore it holds its first democratic presidential election on

Perhaps as important as the election in China's calculations is the arrival in Taiwan this summer of the first of 210 made Mirage 2000 warplanes.

The aircraft, ordered four for delivery, will shift the bal-ance of air power sharply in Taiwan's favour, and the more bellicose generals in Beljing may favour a preemptive strike.

But those counselling patience point to China's own military build-up. A stalled agreement with Moscow for SU-27 fighters has just be unblocked. Beijing has so far high-performance aircraft promised. Under a new ac-cord Russia will deliver the rest and license the production of supersonic intercep-tors in China. The Chinese-language Hong

Taipei has put its troops on alert and cut leave before the New Year

Kong newspaper Ming Pao reported yesterday that the PLA was ready to begin war games on Saturday off the coast of Fujian, facing Tai-wan. Taiwan, regarded by Beijing as a rebel province. has put troops on alert and restricted leave before the Chinese New Year on Febru-

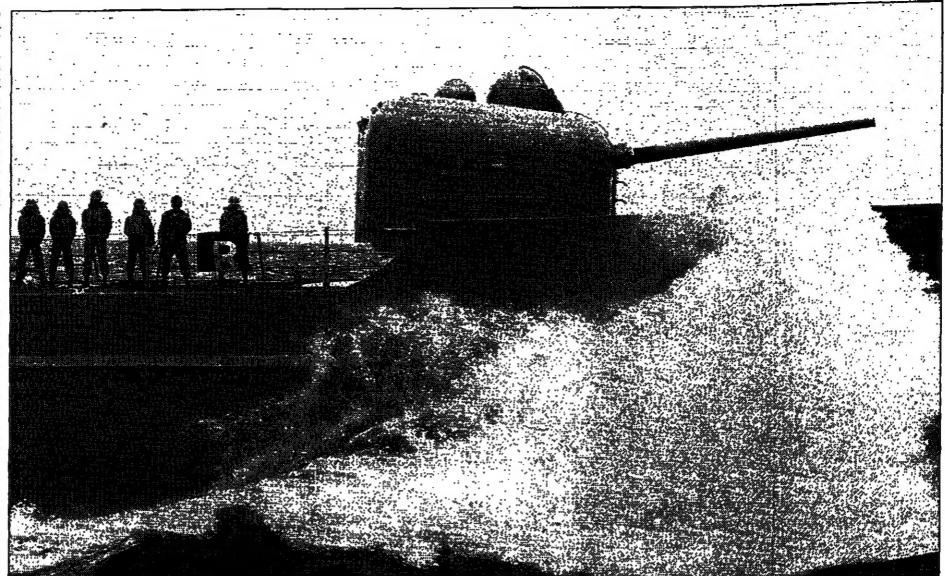
At a campaign rally in Taipei yesterday, President Lee Teng-hui ridiculed China's should submit to Beiling.

not ruled Taiwan for one hour, for one minute," he said. "They have not collected a single cent of tax here and yet they still dare to shout you're mine, you're mine'."
The United States has sought to play down fears of war. In Washington yesterday an assistant secretary of state, Winston Lord, said that China did not intend to take military action against

"Having examined all of the available evidence, we cannot conclude that there is an immineut threat to Taiwan," he told the Senate foreign rela-

The biggest worry in Taipei and Washington is that China's policy towards Taiwan is being driven by the internal politics of an insecure

Mr Jiang, party chief and chairman of the military com-mission, has collected more titles than any previous Chi-nese leader. But he has none of the prestige of Mao Zedong or Mr Deng, both of whom came to power after long military service, and he still



Water guard . . . A Taiwanese frigate pushes through heavy seas during anti-submarine exercises off eastern Taiwan

China's nuclear sale to Pakistan puts Clinton on spot

S INTELLIGENCE says that China sold sensitive nuclear-weapons related equipment to Paki-stan last year, sales which could trigger a halt to US gov-eroment financing of nearly \$10 billion worth of American business deals in China. Clinton advisers are study

ing the intelligence report to work out how to respond. Leg-islation passed in 1994 requires the president to the penalties after such intel-ligence is received.

ing the alleged sale of Chinese missiles to Pakistan, the state department avoided imposing sanctions by deciding that the evidence was not strong enough. A senior state department official said that the US had not yet decided that China had done anything to incur sanctions.
But other officials said

there was no doubt about the new report's conclusions, which could embarrass the administration because it wanted to avoid damaging

highly-enriched pranium, a key ingredient of nuclear weapons. But US officials say the nuclear sale is only one of several recent Chinese actions that may disrupt commercial and diplomatic rela-tions with the US.

China's export of anti-ship cruise missiles to Iran last year may also qualify for Another US law requires sanctions against any country giving "destabilising num-bers and types of advanced

may not have sold enough missiles to force the mandament and technical assistance or military exchanges and sensitive exports. But four senators recently wrote to President Clinton saying that either sanctions or a waiver were now required in this

Washington has been wor-ried for a long time about Chi-nese military assistance to Pakistan, which Beijing regards as a political ally and

The aim of the sanctions | Iran, branded a terrorist state | India. US intelligence officials would be to punish China for | by Washington. | US officials said that China | bg its nuclear arsenal largely ing its nuclear arsenal largely from information supplied by China. Beijing denies this. US intelligence also seems

to have located crates con-taining Chinese-made medium-range missiles in Paki-stan. If confirmed, this will force the US to cut off billionsworth of trade with China. The administration has de-cided that sanctions are not needed until the missiles are seen outside their crates. The latest Chinese nuclear

transfer to Pakistan, detected by the CIA, involves a ship-ment of 5,000 specialised

Mission to

Rennedy airport. — AP.

Possum on menu

A Chinese restaurant in Mer-

free captives

A Red Cross official left Ja-karta for Irian Jaya yesterday

magnets to the Abdul Qadees Kahuta, near Islamabad, Pakistani nuclear bomb

programme.
US experts say the magnets are clearly meant to be installed in high-speed centrifuges at the plant, which enriches uranium for nuclear

Congressional sources said that the shipment therefore triggered provisions of the 1994 Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act which forces the cut-off of financial aid for trade with China. - Washing-

US untangles

the lines

in telecom

Muslim rebels put spoke in Ramos's wheel of fortune

But for a growing insurgency, the southern island of Mindanao could lead the rest of the Philippines to prosperity. Nick **Cumming-Bruce** reports from Camp Abubakre

covered in diagrams and arrows, "Commander Bond" bellowed: "In any war, the best formation is information."

With that Mohammed Sabber, trained in Afghanistan but nicknamed after his Brit-ish film hero, wound up a class on ambush tactics for mojahedin at Camp Abu-bakre, the "military acad-emy" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on the southern Philippines island of

two hours trek from the near-est road. A network of vil-lages makes up the MILF headquarters, the nerve centre for a rebel army of Muslim zealots demanding an autono is a potent threat to Manila's control of an island of lavish natural resources and endemic violence.
The MILF's claim to have

built up an army of 180,000 men may be pure fantasy. But the government forces' estimate of 7,000 to 10,000 almost certainly does less than justice to the MILF's muscle and its capacity to destabilise an island central to President Fidel Ramos's ambitions for the Philippines. Christian-dominated Min-

danaon cities like Cagayan de Oro in the north and the tuna-fishing centre of General San-tos in the south-east are rid-than ever to a deal. Their ne-



ABBING at a blackboard | ing a boom. Their success has covered in diagrams and | raised awareness of how the island can help the Philip-pines to emulate its more

prosperous neighbours Ma-laysia and Indonesia.

But Mindanao's prospects rest on finding the peace that has eluded the southern Mus-lim heartlands round Cotamemories of the independent sultanate that was annexed by Manila in 1938, and decades of conflict have left a

legacy of poverty.

To meet the threat from the The two-storey wooden building which doubles as classroom and dormitory is situated in well-forested hills army to Mindanso, including tanks and armoured person nel carriers, helicopters and ground-attack aircraft.

But its attempts to deploy reinforcements in MILF-controlled areas last year pro-voked counter-moves by the MILF which increased the More than 70,000 people died in the war between the

Manila government and Muslim separatists — then led by the Moro National Liberation Front — in the early 1970s. A raid on the small town of Ipil last year, in which gunmen killed 47 people, looted six banks and burned down the town centre, provided a vivid reminder of how violence can

flare in Mindanao. Twenty years after the agreement ending the war

gotiators will start a new early March. But the MNLF no longer commands the support it did in the 1970s: young Muslims have turned to the

more militant MILF. If the talks go well in March, MNLF leaders say, they could move to Jakarta. A formal peace treaty could be signed, with the blessing of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, by the end of the

The MNLF's timetable looks optimistic, given the slight progress achieved in the last round of talks in Jakarta in December, but it reflects a shared conviction that the two sides can do

General Ramos, working for a place in history as the president who set a battered and demoralised Philippines on the road to Asian tiger status, is aware that any trouble in Mindanao could ruin his economic legacy.

MNLF influence has wanted steadily as wrangles about au-tonomy have dragged on without benefit to the welfare of a war-weary populace. The MILF has grown mean

while, on the back of a Muslim militancy appealing to a frustrated younger genera-tion and supported by mili-tant Islamic organisations Government intelligence

estimates from late 1995 sug-gest that the MILF had

received 29 shipments of arms

exaggerated".

than double the deliveries to the MNLF. "The shipments are quite continuous," confirmed Murad, the MILF chief of staff, though he said reports of their size were "quite For the moment MNLF and MILF leaders maintain a loose co-operation, even if

turf wars between subordinates can end, as one did on Saturday, in fatal gunflights. We recognise all efforts to find a peace," the MILF vicechairman for political affairs, Ghiadzali Gaafar, smoothly asserted. "We do not oppose the negotiations." But he was blunt about their chances of success: "Nothing good will come out of them."

The territorial formula thrashed out between Manila and the MNLF appears to be leading to an autonomous zone made up of six Mindanao provinces and two or three cities, far short of the 13 mouthness anyiesped in the provinces envisaged in the

provinces envisaged in the 1976 Tripoli agreement held up by the MILF as the blue-print for peace. The question of how MILF leaders will respond to a Ma-nila-MNLF pact worries gov-erument and military leaders. "They're having the time of their lives," General Raul Ur-jello, commander of an infan-try division based in Cota-bato, wryly observed of the middle-aged Muslim leaders pouring out militant rhetoric

while reaping the benefits of extensive business interests. The government forces are more numerous and better equipped. And even round Co-tabato, the MILF has little mass support. The civilian population is disillusioned with the rampant corruption of Mindanao's Muslim politicians, the endless MNLF demands for pay-offs and the ar-bitrary MILF "taxes" on their

crops.
But a series of bloody, Ipillike strikes on Mindanao's centres of economic growth is well within the rebels' capacity. "We will try our best not to have any conflict with any group." Murad declared. "But if we can't agree. there is no way but to resort

News in brief



Safe sex . . . A colourfully decorated pair of camels grace an Aids awareness rally in the

Zaire 'set to march refugees across border to Rwanda'

gees by force from camps around Goma, writes Chris

Zaire has banned foreign reporters from the area. UN officials in Rwanda say they have been told to prepare to move large numbers of refu-gees who will be marched across the border. The first target of Zairean troops is ex-pected to be one of the biggest camps, Kibumba, which con-tains about 200,000 Hutus. Zaire has been threatening to close the camps for months.

Last year it set a December 31

a concrete proposal," Chris-ter Gustavsson, international secretary of the League of Christian Social Democrats,

UNITED NATIONS officials say Zaire may again try to repatriate hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refulational protests. In August, Zaire expelled 15,000 to help negotiate the release of 13 people held by separatist rebels for more than a month. Meanwhile the Indonesian August, Zaire expelled 15,000 Rwandan and Burundian refugees before it was again pressured to stop. This time it

armed forces commander, General Feisal Tanjung, said that military action might be would appear to have the tacit endorsement of the UN. About a million Rwandans who fied in July 1994 are still

FIS leader's peace initiative

ANWAR HADDAM, president of the parliamentary delegation in exile of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front, will launch an initiative for peace with Algiers in Stock-bolm today, a host organisa-

"He will be proposing a peaceful solution to the conflict and putting forward

Arms for Angola in Zaire. Some were responsible for the slaughter of Tut-sis and do not wish to return Human Rights Watch said that large amounts of arms were still entering Angola, more than a year after a to Rwanda to account for their crimes. But others are ceasefire protocol, and urged simply Hutu refugees who fear reprisals by the Tutsia total arms embargo on both sides in the continuing con-flict. — Reuter. dominated army which over-threw the Hutu extremist Haiti handover

The FIS was outlawed in Al was poised to win.

president to another. Jean-Bertrand Aristide left Haiti's "We hope that this will be a step leading towards direct negotiations between the govpresidency and René Preval assumed office. — Reuter. Paintings find erument and opposition in Algiers to break the spiral of Police to New York recovered violence in the country," he three paintings — believed to three paintings — believed to be two Picassos and a Pissarro — reported stolen from

geria after the militarybacked authorities cancelled the 1992 general elections it The group has been blamed for the violence in Algeria, in which an estimated 50,900 brushtail possum on the

revolution Azeem Azhar

MERICANS will be able to receive their television and telecommunications serfrom a single company, and pay a single bill at the end of the month, under a telecom-munications bill due to be signed into law today by Pres-

ident Clinton.
The Telecommunications Reform Bill introduces the (£133.3 billion) telecommunications industry in more than

The law — which covers everything from basic telephony to digital broadcasting and the Internet — should mean a giant leap in the development of an information. relopment of an information superhighway. But civil rights groups have vowed to seek a judicial review of sec-tions of the bill which relate

For the first time competition will be allowed in the \$96 billion local call market, which has been controlled by a handful of regional Bell operating companies.

In return for opening up their local monopolies, the regional operators will be able to enter the long-distance market and compete with the dominant player, company, AT & T, and its smaller rivals.

The bill also includes a number of controversial social clauses to control indecent material on traditional and new media. These include Haiti yesterday experienced its first peaceful handover of power from one freely elected vision sets must contain a chip that can block unsuitable programmes, and strict new controls of indecency on

"It's a blow to democracy. The provisions which censor the Internet are quite damaging," said Danny Weitzner, of the Centre for Democracy and Technology pressure group in Washington. The group and the American Civil Liberties Union have vowed to challenge the provisions in the courts as unconsitutional

Yeltsin orders West's hi-tech

know you !!!

Heritage Sect

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Site of Nazis' last shot turned into museum

A reconstructed V-2 that should and it inspired the most heroic resistance movement.

The museum will tell all the story from all sides by have destroyed London is a key exhibit, writes **Paul Webster**

waves of V-2 rockets, one of the missiles was installed yesterday in the massive Pas de Calais bunker that should have been at the centre of the Nazis' last des-perate throw

centre of the Nazis' last desperate throw.

The site near Saint Omer at Helfaut-Wizernes, where 50 missiles were to be launched every day, escaped serious damage, despite being hit by 3,000 tonnes of bombs, but no missiles were ever fired from it. After lying empty since the war, the bunker is being converted into the European Second World European Second World War History Centre, with a reconstructed V-2 as the

key exhibit.
"The RAF destroyed a nearby V-2 site and the huge raid here persuaded the Germans to abandon Helfaut and develop mobile sites elsewhere which did not have the capacity to fulnot have the capacity to ful-fil Hitler's ambitions," the museum's curator, Guy

ORE than 50 years after Hitler gave the order to destroy London with of V. The 210ft-diameter dome stands above miles of

where the rockets were to be assembled.

"No RAF bomb — not even the famous tallboys — could pierce the 20 feet of concrete, but supply lines were too vulnerable and the site was evacuated intact in July, 1944," Mr Froment added.

The French and Ruyo.

The French and European authorities are spending about 28 million to develop the museum, which will record both the German defeat in the second Rettle of Printers and the Battle of Britain and the birth of the space age, cre-ated by captured German rocket scientists. "The Pas de Calais is

unique observatory of the second world war and its consequences," the muse-um's historian, Yves Le

Maner, said.
"It was the centre of the fight between Germany and the ailies, the most heavily-

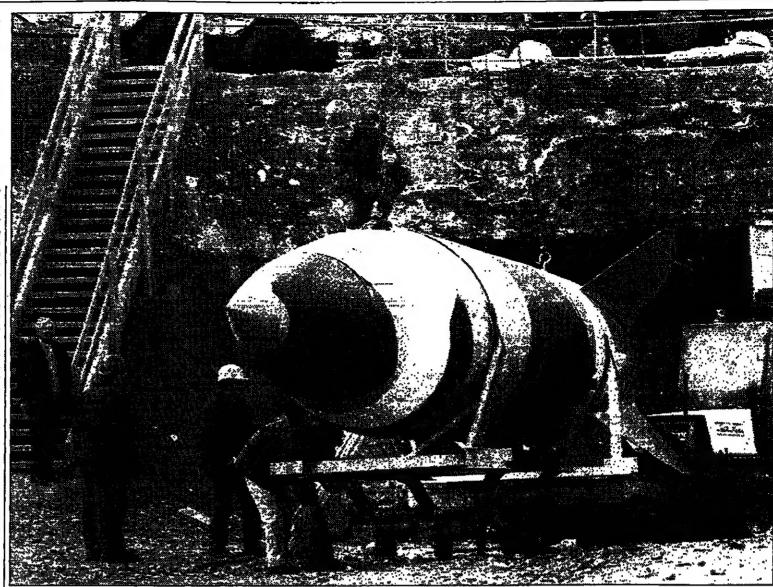
not shying away from the horror. The V-2 rocket base here was built with slave labour and the missile itself constructed by prison-The 210ft-diameter dome stands above miles of underground galleries where the rockets were to be assembled.

"No RAF bomb — not adventure."

adventure."
The savagery of the Nazi rocket era has recently been underlined by the discovery in Washington ar-chives that Wernher von Braun, the most celebrated space pioneering engineer, was a member of the SS, which terrorised the slave

American government de-liberately kept secret," Mr Le Maner added. "Space exploration had to remain

The museum will open next year and is expected to attract 240,000 visitors an-nually, many of them Brit-ish. The main area will be named after a British professor, Reginald Jones, whose intelligence work uncovered the secre weapon programme and the Helfaut site.



'Unique observatory' . . . The V2 is pulled into the bunker near St Omer, in the Pas de Calais, being converted at a cost of £8 million into a museum both of the German defeat and the birth of the space age

Serb officers face tribunal

Stephen Bates in Brussels

HE United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague said yesterday it was considering indicting two senior Serbian army officers for civilian atrocities after they were picked up by Bosnian government forces while on their way to a meeting with Nato officers.

General Djordje Djukic, a close aide to Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army com-mander, and Colonel Aleksa Krmanovic were seized after taking a wrong turning near Sarajevo last week. Richard Goldstone, the tribunal prosecutor, has asked for their arrest while they are investi-gated for failing to stop their troops firing on civilians throughout the siege of

The Serbian government reacted angrily to the detan-tion, suspending contact with the Bosnian government and demanding Nato forces inter-vention to release them. General Milan Gvero, the Serbian army deputy commander, said they must be released "if peace is to be maintained in Bosnia".

Justice Goldstone's reques strengthens the Bosnian gov-ernment's hand by stating that the arrest of the Serb offi-cers comes under the terms of the Geneva convention on

If they are extradicted to the tribunal's headquarters in The Hague, the two officers will be the second and third

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin

gave his beleaguered prime minister, Viktor Cher-

prime minister, viktor Chernomyrdin, 10 days yesterday to produce a plan to refinance and re-equip the entire Russian army and defence industry: a sign that the president is preparing to batter deserting the president in the president is preparing to batter deserting the president in the president in the president is preparation to batter deserting the president in the presiden

is preparing to batten down the pre-election hatches.

Mr Yeltsin accused Western security services of under-

mining Russia's military potential, and ordered a radi-

cal programme of hi-tech

nised a "bram drain" of Rus-sia's most talented military scientists to get Russia's se-crets and weaken its high technology potential. Speak-ing to the national security council, he ordered intelli-gence chiefs to step up their efforts to secure for Russia

the West's high-technology

He instructed Vyacheslav Russian n

He claimed that Western special services had orga-nised a "brain drain" of Rus-

Yeltsin orders targeting of

West's hi-tech secrets

suspects to be charged with war crimes in the Bosnian

Bekir Gavrankapetanovic. president of the Bosnian gov-ernment's war crimes commission, said Gen Djukic and Col Krmanovic were responsible for the crimes commit-ted by troops under their command if they did not prevent killings or were giving orders for others to carry

A tribunal spokesman de clined last night to give de-tails of the allegations against the two men:

But a tribunal statement thanked the Bosnian govern-ment for its co-operation and pointedly reminded other governments that they were also obliged to assist its

Rarlier this week Antonio Cassese, the tribunal's president, expressed disappoint-ment that the Serb and Croat authorities had shown a lack of co-operation since the signing of the Dayton peace

agreement.

• Hundreds of angry Bosnian Croats besieged the headquarters of the European Union mission in Mostar and assaulted its leader yesterday because of his proposal for reunifying the city,

Hens Koschnick, the EU administrator, was trapped in

ministrator, was trapped in his armoured car by protesters who danced on top of the vehicle, chanting that the German diplomat should be killeď.

Sevaral EU vehicles were overturned and damaged.

eign intelligence service

(SVR), "to prepare proposals for improving the mecha-

nisms of using scientific in-formation received through

foreign intelligence in the in-terests of technological

rearmament".

Mr Chernomyrdin's task is virtually impossible, given its size, and is a sign of the political pressure his enemies are

outting on him. Mr Yeltsin's words pleased

his many intelligence and army critics, who accuse him of neglecting Russia's defence

and hi-tech industries in the

nation of Russia's current industrial weakness. But it is

partly based on serious Rus-

The federal security service claimed last year to have identified and expelled more

than 50 foreign agents from Nizhoi Novgorod, near the

Russian nuclear-bomb mak-

sian intelligence estimates.

name of free-market refor His accusation against Western spies is partly politi-cal, in that it offers his na-

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Vincent Hanna

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I know you thought the job of Heritage Secretary would be fun. How could you possibly guess that you'd be mugged in a state retirement home by a bunch of geriatric sports fans?

age 16

The Guardian

Thursday February 8 1996 Edition Number 46,470 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER Fax No. 0171-837 4530 E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk

Trying to go Scott-free

The sleaze continues right up to publication

replies to Parliament. Then they even signed gagging orders covering up evidence of government complicity — pub-lic interest immunity certificates which were so far from the public interest that arms exporters who had been helping British intelligence services could have been sent to prison but for the robust intervention of a trial judge. So is it any wonder Whitehall is trying to sabotage Scott? As a senior Whitehall official told Richard Norton-Taylor, our reporter who has covered the Scott inquiry: "The cover-up is greater than the original sin; the greatest sin of all is to be found out."

Lord Justice Scott's inquiry was set up to restore authority to a government with its back against the wall. John Major set it up, selected Sir Richard Scott as its chairman, and laid down its unequivocal and wide remit. In the three years since Sir Richard began work, Mr Major has prided himself on setting up "an impartial, clear-cut and independent inquiry"; set out his determination to know "the facts, which is why I have set up an inquiry ..."; and declared his "confidence" that Sir Richard would carry it out "thoroughly".

In this three year period, Sir Richard has received evidence from 200 witnesses, heard 60 of them in public, gathered over 200,000 pages of documents, listened to 430 hours of evidence and produced a 1,800 page report which went to ministers yesterday. During the inquiry Mr Major robustly declared that "ministers who deliberately mislead the House should resign". So why was Labour protesting about ministerial manipulation yesterday? For good

From the beginning Lord Howe, the period under scrutiny, accused Scott of | not a soundbite war.

FIRST they broke the rules on selling acting as "detective, inquisitor, advoarms to Saddam Hussein. Then they cate and judge". What Lord Howe tried to keep it secret with misleading wanted was the right for lawyers reprecate and judge". What Lord Howe senting witnesses to be able to cross examine other witnesses. This was absurd. To do so would have meant the collapse of the inquiry — or at least the three-year investigation stretching to 33 years. Scott rightly drew a line against the undue legal licence that has been hampering rather than helping official investigations. Whitehall responded with a vicious whispering campaign against Scott culminating this week with Douglas Hurd's suggestion that the Government may not accept all of

Sir Richard's recommendations. Sir Richard has bent over backwards to be fair. Every witness was given a list of questions in advance, the right to correct the transcripts, and the right to make representations against any criticism of their actions in his first draft. He has even, mistakenly, agreed to let ministers have a copy of his report eight days in advance.

Many Whitehall lights will remain burning for the next 192 hours. Ministers have made it clear. They intend to "tough it out". As Robin Cook noted yesterday, it is not the fairness of Scott which is worrying ministers but his thoroughness. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General who had to concede to Scott that there was no duty on ministers to sign PII certificates, was back defending them again yesterday. Even now, ministers will be carefully combing through Scott to select the most propitious quotes for the Government's summary of the report. Meanwhile, opposition parties are being asked to wait for their copies until 30 minutes before publication. The Speaker of the Commons was right yesterday to support an earlier release of the document to opposition parties. Foreign Secretary for some of the The Scott report needs a serious debate,

Shaking up the estate we're in

Constitutional reform is now Labour's most radical policy

tions. Politicians, priding themselves on their populist touch in other matters, seem extraordinarily unconcerned at the demonstrable alienation of so many citizens from those who try to

Tony Blair has made constitutional change a pillar of the New Labour project, a claim which he cemented last night in his John Smith Lecture in London. His speech contained little that he has not said before, and it built on commitments previously made by Mr Smith, but it brought together and consolidated these commitments at a very

TOO MANY British politicians still | Mr Blair asked almost all the right dismiss constitutional reform as radi- questions and gave many of the right cal chic, Islington stuff. Even the That- answers. The overarching question was cherite right, normally so eager to simple: are we satisfied with the way change everything else, hangs a Do Not | we are governed now? In a wide-rang-Disturb notice on the British constitu- | ing set of answers we heard new emtion. Yet all the while the reputations of | phasis on the direct election of mayors politics and public life have rarely been | and on the detail of House of Lords lower. MPs, like princes, judges and national officials of all kind, swing in the icy wind of public cynicism towards why it was not mentioned but it is not many of our most important institu- credible to mount an attack on the hereditary principle while ignoring the most important example of it. The mechanics and practicalities of the electoral reform referendum — to which Mr Blair recommitted himself — also remain unanswered.

Yet the overall effect of the speech is extremely positive. Constitutional reform is now the biggest divide between the two major parties. It is the ground on which Labour is at its most radical and the Conservatives, as they again showed yesterday, their most abjectly defensive. Those who have urged this course on Labour over the years important time for the Labour Party. (among them the Liberal Democrats, The message last night was less about who were owed and received a generspecific pieces of reform and more ous compliment from Mr Blair last about tone and the need to reiterate night) must keep up their pressure, but first principles. After the Harman af they ought also to recognise the extent fair, Mr Blair acknowledged that he of the achievement. It is one thing to needed to reclaim the high ground for modernise the institutions of a party. It Labour. Significantly and encourage is another to modernise the institutions ingly, constitutional reform - cleaning of a nation. If Labour sticks to these up our public life and making it more | commitments, as it must, this could be fair — is the means which he has the most important radical programme of its whole government.

A painter for the (patient) people

Forget about the hype. Cézanne is worth the wait at the Tate

CEZANNE said that art never | and widens the appeal of art. Even addressed itself to more than an extremely small number of individuals— will get pleasure from the media blitz. but that won't stop 300,000 people from | And the act of reporting alters what is addressing his first retrospective for 60 | reported. Cézanne has hitherto been years at the Tate Gallery in London. It sitting in his own shadow. A painter's is easy to be cynical about the hype painter who unwittingly created the surrounding the event as the media infrastructure for Cubism, he was accircus tracks it from Paris to Philadel- | claimed for the genius of his controverphia by way of Millbank, followed by sial bathing scenes and for the sublime the CD-ROM, the commemorative tea | way he deconstructed the holy stillness towels, scarves, vases and a catalogue, of a Provençal morning. Now he has the price of which could have bought moved from being someone who was you a real Cézanne during his unvenerated lifetime. The hype is necessary to much known about, to a posthumous fund the privilege of viewing the lifetime's work of a great artist gathered | in his lifetime and has been neglected into one place from around the world at by his native Aix-en-Provence even to a cost (though a UK art record at £7) this day. Yet in the space of a few cheaper than a football match.

This blockbuster approach to art presentation is self-justifying in that the come the talk of the chattering classes. media bombardment, as much as the The painter's painter is, happily, beexhibition itself, breaks down barriers | coming the people's painter.

known to the wider world, but not superstar. He hardly sold any paintings months the man who thought chatter about art was almost useless has be-



Letters to the Editor

Try dealing with reality

TOM HODGKINSON (Tessa stars in the revival of DIY. February 6) is disingenuous for, while affecting empathy for those marginalised by the "look-after-yourself economy", in reality he celebrates the transition whereby we be-come "dealers, in control of our destinies". His political programme owes much to Hayek, who conceived society as a spontaneous order of market relations.

The giveaway is Hodgkinson's view of trade unions: "The real values of unions or some value of unions should be to provide informa-tion and legal advice to its members". This is also indebted to Hayek, although he was less sanguine about unions' economic impact (he argued that they were coercive and legally privileged organisations which raised pay above the market rate, thus causing inflation).

This limited concept of union legitimacy has inspired the Conservative legislative programme to regulate and restrict industrial action and union government. The justification for trade unions as collective organisations of workers is the limited power way sossible obscures the fact that the project of the control of the contro of individuals in relation to that their prime motive is to can dissolve this. Paul Smith. Lecturer in Industria

Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire.

OM Hodgkinson seems to believe he can take control of his destiny by investing in Personal Equity Plans. Per-haps he should take greater heed of the standard warning that investments can go down he could find out the hard way that, when share prices drop, he might not be as in control of his life as he would like to think. Daniel Ben-Ami. 23 Telford Avenue London SW2 4XL.

A protest

MUST take issue with the headline of Phil Gunson's article (Army attacks oil protests, February 6) which gives the totally mistaken impression that the Mexican army attacked two small groups of protesters, led by the opposition PRD political party, that forcibly occupied oil installations belonging to Pemex in the state of Tabasco. For your information, a group of law-enforcement offigroup of law-morcement offi-cers, made up of various police and military officials, removed the protestors who, after several days of negotia-tions with authorities, were unwilling peacefully to leave the sites on which they were trespassing. There was no "attack" by anyone, but rather a forceful removal of individuals who were unlawfully obstructing Pemex oil-production facilities.

42 Hertford Street. London W1Y 7TF.

ins and outs AVID Buckingham asks, after the Adrian Rogers row (Letters, February 6):
"How long before a politician admits to sleeping with a woman — but did not insert"." This may have already happened. A woman claimed last year that Newt Gingrich's affairs involve oral sex because then he can say, T never slept with her'." Tony Russell. Parsons Hse, Kew Bridge Road,

Brentford, Middx TW8 0EH.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

Shock for those in power Nookie and the

someone £500,000 a year
plus perks to run a sensible national energy policy.
You might find someone who could disregard Tory right-wing doctrine, someone who knows that you can't stock-pile gas at power stations against extremes of power de-mand, and remembers that we do have quite regular cold spells (worse than the present one) every few years (like droughts in Yorkshire). Philip Spruce. 62 Boden Road,

Hall Green, Birmingham B28 9DL,

ONE week after the Brit-ish Antarctic Survey reported the disintegration of the Antarctic ice-fields, the Government cancels 230 million worth of home-insulation grants (Home grants axed to pay for quango, February 3). It is difficult to imagine a more terrifying insight into the cynicism of government policy on global warming.

WO quotes: "Cézanne was not French It was the

negro blood of his mother that

gave his canvases most of their qualities."

"Elizabeth Aubert, Cé-

zanne's mother was born ... of remote Creole origin ... it was from her that Paul got his conception and vision of life."

The first quote is from Rob-ert Coady's exhibition notes in

New York in 1917. The second

from Ambroise Vollard's book

on Cezanne.
Perhaps racial harassment

in France explains the pres-sures he experienced that led to him being described as a youngster as "sensitive and violent" and also why child-

tant noun. A London borough

recently advertised for "a

common and/or criminal law-

yer". They wanted a specialist

in the common- and/or the criminal law — but they were

overwhelmed with applicants

21 Fulstone Road, Huddersfield,

YPHEN or no hyphen, we still can't tell if the cab or

who took them literally.
J Brian Harrison-Jennings.

W Yorks HD4 6YD.

ren in the street threw stones | Arts Association.

at him when he was an adult. 23 Clarence Street

It sets a context of which Liverpool L3 5TN.

Another visit to pedants' corner

WHAT a difference a hyphen can make (Letters, boots", what is fur-lined ladies' boots", what is fur-lined? Brita Haycraft. 106 Plccadilly, London W1V 9FL.

the driver is black in the spoken version of "black cab driver". Equally, we shall always wonder if short story writers are short, or crude oil Tim Footman.

technicians are crude, or if we | 5 Nursery Road

can find a hidden zebra cross | London SW19 3BT.

THERE'S NO COLOUR DESCRIMINATION HERE-WE HAVE BLUE PAINTINGS, RED PAINTINGS, GREEN PAINTINGS...

Light shed on Cezanne's dark side

government-appointed quango of familion per an-num, should be set against the combined profits of the gas and electricity-supply in-dustries of 28 billion per annum (1994-95). (Dr) Robin Russell Jones St Thomas' Hospital Lambeth Palace Road.

London SE1 7EH.

AM freezing. So is the rest of my family. Our central heating system broke down a week ago. We have a three-star service contract with British Ges for which we pay nearly £100 a year. However, after a week in freezing weather, and a five-minute visit by a diagnosing engi-neer, we don't seem anywhere nearer repair than we were a week ago. Numerous phone calls have failed to elicit any

Talking to hard-working and harassed gas engineers in the recent past I discovered that their workload has more than doubled -- twice as many calls to answer each

day and no more money. I am an articulate customer, with a telephone, who companies and state agencies. sail as much energy as possion of santasies of Hodgkinson lible, not conserve it. Thus the other people are sitting in per household per year on en-ergy conservation, while the ficient service does not seem gas regulator. Claire Spottist to matter in the privatised woode, has blocked energy- monopolies. The only effi-

Adrian Searle appears to be ignorant (Land and artistic freedom, February 7) in describing Cézanne as "difficult tacitum and dangerous".

The Tate built its empire

from profits made from slave

sugar plantations. Now it will exploit the "African". Ce-zanne. Perhaps some of the fortune it makes from charging 27 and 28.50 to see the

ing \$7 and \$25.50 to see the paintings, and the profits from the merchandising, can be used to employ some black people. In the Liverpool Tate for example, out of a work force of 70, only one is black. Ibrahim Thompson.

Artistic Director, Liverpool

N applauding US spelling Iain Sutherland (Letters,

February 7) wonders why we

didn't adopt it years ago. We did, and introduced it to the

former colony. Then for some

reason we changed it at home. Jim Warren.

WHY does Iain Sutherland regard "color" as "logical and simple" spelling? Surely "culler" is closer to the sound

of the word. Or would this her-

72 Grestone Avenue,

Birmingham B20 1AY.

Anti-Racist Community

T MIGHT be worth paying saving proposals put forward ciency that matters to them is someone 2500,000 a year by the Energy Savings Trust, that of higher profits. And I'm plus perks to run a sen. The start-up budget for this still freezing. Alicia Merrett. 43 Anson Road, London N7 0AR.

BY DEMERGING, British Gas will be able to protect the very profitable monopoly transportation business with which a grateful nation has presented it, and meanwhile put its vast and embarrassing liabilities for loss-making up-stream "take-or-pay" supply contracts into a separate vessel, namely the domestic gas business. This it could then threaten to sink without trace, in the hope of being baled out by the taxpayer. Watch this space.

CEDRIC Brown said, that with British Gas being split into two companies, his job had disappeared. If so, why is he being paid £120,000 consultancy fees?

watch their televisions to

Tim Todd. Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3XY.

IKE Ros Coward (Commer Lpage, February 5), I was initially mystified at the brutal treatment of asylum-seek-ers being sought by Michael Howard and Michael Portillo. given the men's backgrounds. The explanation may lie in "Hansen's law", a socio-cultural phenomenom first iden-tified by the American historian Marcus Hansen in the 1930s. He argued that first-generation immigrants remain es-sentially foreign in custom and (depending where they come from) language. The second generation (is the Howards and Portillos) vigor-ously strive to assimilate, and apparently do so. Yet the third generation seek to rediscover their ancestral roots. So Howard's and Portillo's harsh atti-tudes will earn them the condemnation not only of history, but of their own children.

Robin Reeves. Editor, New Welsh Review. Market Road, Cardiff CF5 1QE.

While parents' fears are entirely understandable, and some magazine owners are doubtless more interested in

steamy mags

THE introduction of a Bill

to regulate the content of

teenage magazines (Magazine bill doomed, February 6) is a

source of deep concern to those who are working to reduce Britain's still exces-

sively high under-16 preg-nancy rate. Every serious in-ternational study has shown

that in countries where sex is openly discussed with teenagers by parents, teachers and the media, the pregnancy rate is far below ours. profit than their readers' health, even a measure as feeble as this should be firmly Donald Reid. Chief Executive. Association for Public Health, Hamilton House,

Vilnis Vesma. 17 Church Street Newent, Glos GL18 1PU.

MY (almost) 13-year-old daughter is a regular reader of the magazines singled out by Peter Luff as in need of regulation. For the publishers to claim that they Steve Elliott. 52 Gerrard Street

Lancaster LA1 5LZ. are not aimed at the early-HOSE who were without teen market is patently non-power on February 6 would have not been able to the photo-sets provided in electricity regulator, Stephen | their freezing homes waiting | Learn that the late-night | bination of handsome youths |
Littlechild, has allowed the | for British Gas to repair their | weather forecast on ITV was | on one side and fluffy animals |
minuscule expenditure of £1 | appliances? In a market econ | "sponsored by PowerGen | on the other, to realise that." weather forecast on TTV was on one side and fluffy animals sponsored by PowerGen — on the other, to realise that, producing electricity whatever the weather"!

Would a magazine genuinely aimed at 16- and 17-year-olds

Would a magazine genuinely aimed at 16- and 17-year-olds have quite so many kittens? Further, for TV Hits to respond that they may have "slightly mishandled" the On paternal sins

Mabledon Place.

subject of oral sex is inadequate, to say the least. They haven't had to deal with the resulting confusion and playground gossip or listen to the sort of remarks that 13-yearold boys have taken to making to girls.
But I am not going to ban

my daughter from purchasing and reading such magazines Firstly because to make something illicit is to make it more interesting; but mainly be-cause I recognise that, if she is to use sensibly the increas ing control over her own life that she expects, she needs both information and

guidance.
The one recurring com-plaint teenagers have about school "sex education" is that it concentrates too much on plumbing and not enough on emotions. For the most part the magazines do put things in an emotional and social

context
Gal Travis.
Dairymple Way,
Norwich,
Norfolk NR6 6TR.

A Country Diary

WOLSINGHAM, DALE: Few sounds lift the spirits in the depths of winter better than bird song, especially at the end of a long, sunless January, which has been the dullest on weered it. sunless January, which has been the dullest on record It was a hedge sparrow that first caught our attention, singing from the top of a blackthorn that still carried the last munmified, frost-withered records. withered remnants of last season's sloe crop. Hedge sparrows are notoriously polygamous and, no doubt, need to sing early and often in order to assemble their harem. It seems to take only a barely perceptible increase in day-length to trigger the we crossed the pasture countered another reminder towards Waskerley Beck, we that spring is not far away. could hear a singing dipper from a full 30 yards away, despite the sound of water and glided away over the swirling over the stones. and gurglings of rushing and another breeding season water. Perhaps the forces of natural selection have oper-

WEAR- | ated on this bird's voice to rial defence. We watched rial defence. We watched from close quarters for several minutes while it sang its long, warbling song, first from a perch on the snow-covered alder roots and then from a water-polished stone, behing the stone of the same stone. bobbing up and down and poised to whire away if we moved a step closer. Then a potential mate appeared around the bend in the beck and they both disappeared downstream in a wild chase just above the water surface. start of their courtship. As A little further on, we en-we crossed the pasture countered another reminder There is something about the pitch of a dipper's song that carries it above the turmoil will have eggs to incubate trees in the direction of the

Young

Comme

Hugo

Elizabeth #

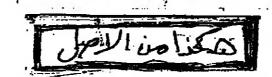
Tar Enforcement ALL WALLS Michael Wh A TERRETTANIST

I made to

Carried - Virginia

The programme has been seen to be a seen to The same of the sa





Diary

Matthew Norman

T IS Jeremy Paxman's most famous dictum that, when interviewing a politician, his constant thought is: "Why is this bas-tard lying to me?" To you. Jeremy, and to all you other nasty cynics, I am delighted today to present an honest politician. It is the Deputy Prime Minister, First Secre-tary of State. When Mr Heseltine said that his business techniques included keeping his creditors waiting, he was telling the simple truth. Guardian car-toonist Martin Rosen reports that the then President of the Board of Trade asked to buy a drawing which featured him as Chairman Mao (he had just been to China) for £300. The cheque did not come. Mar-tin rang the Trade department four or five times, and each time was told: "I'll remind the President of that." The President's am-nesia stretched on for two and a half months, and only when Martin was close to issuing a winding-up order on the Board of Trade did the cheque arrive. Mr Hesel tine is worth about £40

EANWHILE, a vist-tor to the Cabinet Office was amused to find a copy of World of Interiors in the waiting area. Among the magazine many useful articles was one headlined "Improving your farniture". Please God this gives Mr Heseltine no big ideas about replacing the Harrods furniture on which he lavished £40,000 of our money last summer.

HAVE received a phone message, not, alas, from my missing friend Dr Julian Lewis, but from one of Mandy Mandelson's little helpers. It seems that, in one crucial respect, yester-day's item about Mandy's role as bead of all Labour Party campaigning was in-correct. At the public meeting to welcome him to Millbank Tower, the Blair apparatchik Margaret McDonagh did not say: "We wish you'd never left, Mandy". She in fact said: 'We wish you'd never left, Peter." This seems a salutary time to remind all of you that Mr Mandelson's given name is Peter. Mandy is an affectionate nickname, the use of which Miss McDonagh (an employee, after all, and not a friend) doubtless felt would be a show of over-familiarity. This sentiment does her great credit.

AM confused by the election campaign for the Rectorship of Glasgow University. Voting is on February 28, and a coalition of leftwing Labour and Liberal Democrats (led from efer by cuddly MP George Galloway) wants Saudi dis-sident Mohammed al-Mas'ari: as Rector he wouldwere he deported to Dominica — be entitled to return each month to chair the university's finance meeting, or so they hope. Mr al-Mas'ari has widespread sup-port: rightwing incumbent Johnny Ball (Zoe's dad) is willing to retire, and Ian Hislop already has. The stumbling block, it seems, is the Blairite Labour club which refuses to withdraw Richard Wilson, even though the actor is keen to stand aside. I cannot decide which is more baffling— the Blairites eagerness to associate with a self-confessed Socialist (Mr Wilson was once on the Redgrave wing in Equity), or their apparent distaste for Mr al-Mas'ari.

N exciting news from the world of retailing, Knightsbridge Crown Court is pioneering the judicial expansion from can-teen stodge to selling general goods as well. Eager to avoid the trap of over-stocking, the display cabinet con-tains precisely three products — aspirins, notebooks, and black tights. The aspirins are clearly for prisoners, and the notebooks for reporters. Only on enquiry however, do we learn that the tights are for judges. Apparently they have terri-ble trouble with ladders.

FOREIGN Office mandarin wandered into the loo at the Commons press gallery yes terday, and saw a large toilet paper dispenser bearing the maker's name Scott. "This shows the thoroughness," be said proudly,
"with which the government smear campaign is being conducted."



Look forward in anger

Commentary

Hugo Young

HAT Labour needs most from the Scott Report is not William Waldegrave's head on a plate. That might be appetising, but the meal would soon be over. The more essential outcome is a surge of rabid anger from voters discovering for the first time how, under the slimy stones, they are sometimes governed.
Unless they wake up, Tony
Blair's constitutional lecture
last night, billed as a key text of New Labour's new politics, runs the risk of leading nowhere. He addresses popular despair with politics, which he said "touches the vitals of the nation". But the normal condition of Britain is that the despair is seldom great enough.

The Scott Report should do something to correct that. The coincidence of lecture and report is therefore favourable. Whatever else Scott achieves, he will supply a unique public guide to the private, secretive, double-

able power which Whitehall created for the purpose of selling weaponry to Iraq. He will show just what ministers and officials are prepared to get up to and then either conceal or justify. He will lead many people to doubt not only whether present ministers were honest but whether the system, behind the screen of

system, behind the screen of executive power, is any longer capable of integrity.

If Mr Blair's new politics mean anything, they surely need to promise that this world will change. Politicians who have been in opposition so long, it is true, are liable to be imposent in such matters. Their open-eyed amazement may be genuine, but not nec-essarily durable. Whether Labour ministers, once griz-zled by power, would be any more open and honest than Tories in supervising an arms industry that makes £5,000 million a year from exports is a question to which affirmative answers can't be guaran-teed. But Scott will reveal a rotten bureaucracy, a corrupt political culture, a system so lacking in curbs on the arrogance of executive power that just about the entire Labour Party will line up behind the constitutional reforms to which the leader reaffirmed

his commitment yesterday. The project, however, faces obstacles which the party has hitherto but dimly recognised.

dealing world of unaccount- Like some other aspects Labour policy, the question whether the people really understand and agree with it is only now being raised in earnest. The glib listing of the old litany - Freedom of Information, Bill of Rights, Lords reform, Scottish and Welsh devolution — needs a new treat-ment to lift it beyond the realm of acquiescent chattering. For one can never say too often that, in these matters. Britain is a terribly conserva-

Britain is a terribly conserva-tive country. The Tories' ap-peal to preserve the status quo, reiterated by the party chairman, may be dismal gov-ernment but, outside Scotland, may not be bad politics. Nor, if Labour gets to power, can ministers rely on this chang-ing Even a large majority will be vulnerable to the Tories' claim that obstructing reform with every weapon at their with every weapon at their disposal is their sacred duty to the constitution.

In short, constitutional reform won't work if it can't moster more than public toleration. Without a sense of deeration. Without a sense of de-spair, the mandate for change may soon seem flimsy. Noth-ing more deeply divides the parties than this stuff. Its the most naked battle-ground. Yet unless the case for reform can be made the vehicle of public appear the hattle may end in anger, the battle may end in stalemate — ie defeat for Mr

One source of failure could devolution could yet wreck be in the detail. He had only a his programme: which is why

little to say about that last night. Choosing his words delicately, Blair seemed to say that, while needing democratic legitimacy, the second chamber might not have to be entirely elected. There might be room for selected stars with good credentials. He took on the increasingly damaging notion of the Lords as a kind of super-quango, filled up with his own appointees. This wouldn't happen, he said. "There are no absolutes." Fair enough. But it will remain unacceptable if

the interim, unelected superquango turns out to be as far as anyone is prepared to go. As argued here before, better no reform than the pretence that election would present, after all, an intolerable chal-lenge to the House of

Detail, equally, could be the unmaking of a creditable de-volution that the Scots and Welsh are proud of Even here, where more work has

The public, he thinks, find Question Time the apotheosis of childish irrelevance

been done, and where local public demand is not in doubt, parliamentary obstrucdoubt, parliamentary obstruc-tion could ride on the back of legitimate criticism if the spe-cific proposals do not make sense. Quite rightly, Mr Blair took apart the preposterous Tory argument that an assem-bly with the power to raise taxes must by definition bring in a Tartan Tax. But he knows as well as anyone how

one can understand why. While constitutional reform is the cheapest of his three projects, it is far more perilous, because less fudgeable, than either the economic or the social. And the support he seeks for it comes from contradictory impulses. On the one hand, his lec-

ture set forth a politics of consensus. Why, he asks, does a culture of adversarial shouting survive in a world that is no longer divided sharply into the two old camps, socialist and liberal? Is it not time to consider that the answers to many modern problem might attract a level of popular support which the methods of the House of Commons entirely fail to reflect? Since disagreements over economic management and social provi-sion are now, when shorn of rhetoric, quite minimal, shouldn't the institutions of politics, local and central, be seen much more as agencies

seen much more as agenties for getting things done than for the airing of manufac-tured hostilities?

The public, he thinks, want this, and find Question Time the apotheosis of childish irthe apotheosis of children ir-relevance. I agree with this case for more emollience. On the other hand, anger must precede it. The British have watched government being centralised before their very eyes. For 16 years, they've seen quangos supplant ac-countable politicians. They've countable politicians. They've blithely put up with it. Even Scotland, grotesquely mis-represented, went back to sleep after 1992. This is what Blair wants to change, and his diagnosis of the problem is gaining substance. But first the complacency of the Brit-ish, disease of ages, needs to

Code (superseded by a new code on January 1, 1996; which said civil servants owe duties of confidentiality and loyal service to the Crown. Since constitutionally the Crown acts on the advice of ministers who are answer-able for their departments in Parliament, these duties are for all practical purposes owed to the government of the day." It is this duty of confi-dentiality, "for all practical purposes", which has inhibited civil servants from speaking out when they might have wished to defend themselves quite as vigor-ously as their ministerial masters have been able to do. masters have been able to do.

The latest injustice to be meted out to individual civil servants who have given evidence to the Scott inquiry is that of being denied early access to the report. The document was delivered to government was delivered to government ministers yesterday.

They will have eight days to mindedly not it venochobia. will have eight days to read its 1,800 pages, consider carefully what it says, take legal advice, discuss it with each other and take advice on handling the media, Parlia-ment and the inevitable polit-ical fall-out. Civil servants who are the subject of criti-

of people who stand to be criticised by the report have so much time to prepare, and another so little? No doubt there will be those who on reading this will yet again cry "Whitehall conspiracy". To do so is to give a cheap and easy retort to the real issues about securing the just treatment of individual civil servants. Moreover, any suggestion that civil servants will be as free to defend them-

cism will have a mere six hours to prepare. The issue of natural justice still peeds an-

swering. How can it be fair and equitable that one group

elves as ministers are is Civil servants will be required to clear any state-ment in advance with their departmental legal adviser and with their head of establishment. Of course, no such statement can be made if it

criticises government policy.
It has always been unclear as to the course of action open to a civil servant who knows that a minister has sought to evade ministerial responsi-bility by, for example, mis-leading either deliberately or unknowingly the House of Commons. That was the issue raised by the Westland affair, and is one of the major issues of debate in relation to Matrix Churchill. Let us hope Sir Richard has some answers

secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

the most significant detail in the lecture was also the most gnomic, a reference to the need to reform the House of Commons. Detail, however, is Commons. Detail. however, is not yet Mr Blair's point, and one can understand why. are not for sale



Isabel Hilton

HAVE always been scepti-cal about the peripheral social benefits claimed by organised sport. Its shortcomings as an educational tool, for instance, were brought home by the headline in a Scottish newspaper in 1978 that celebrated Scot-land's qualification for the World Cup in Argentina. "Rio here we come!" it announced, here we come!" If announced, in letters four inches high. But perhaps I shall have to reconsider: the sight of all that ruffled ermine on Tuesday as the House of Lords wound itself up to inflict defeat on the Government over the swilch library for the control of the control o the availability of sport on television was pretty arrest-ing stuff. After 15 years of steady erosion of the accepted

notion of public good, the nation has stirred.

During the last election campaign, Norma Major revealed that she had bought her husband a satellite-televi-sion dish for his birthday. So perhaps Mr Major, as one of the minority of British house-holders subscribing to satel-lite television, hadn't taken in the import of the broadcasting deals that threatened to remove the "crown jewels" of sport from terrestrial

Sport on television bores me rigid. But yesterday's Lords debate did not. It is rare indeed that the upper house is moved to action on behalf of the lower orders. The most memorable mobilisation of the second chamber in recent years gave us the unedifying sight of a gaggle of undead peers descending from a convoy of taxls in 1988, to vote down the proposition that the poll tax should be charged according to ability to pay. As a rule of thumb, A media tycoon, a Johnny foreigner at that, was proposing to deprive the nation of the right to its own rituals. The curious thing is that

this is hardly new. The Lords did not stir when the same tycoon acquired that national institution, the Times, or when satellite broadcasting was exempt from the rules limiting cross-media owner-ship. Nor did they seem to think it inapt that he should

It took the proposition that the Wimbledon finals and the Grand National were no more than commodities in this game of global Monopoly to bring home the power of the market to restrict what the citizen thinks of as his right to participate in his own national life.

The free market is a tricky proposition for any politician who likes to authenticate his right to govern on the basis of national tradition. In the absence of war, sport provides a sence of war, sport provides a vehicle for images of national greatness and solidarity, and any politician knows that a win by the national team is good for the Government. The curious thing about yesterday was that the Government had only belatedly realised that sporting nationalism, normally considered a plus for the Conservatives, would exthe Conservatives, would expose the contradictions of the

party's position.
The market salutes no flag but its own. And Mr Murdoch, as Lord Peyton put it, "is a man who owes this country no allegiance, who does not seem to be overwhelmed by admira-tion for its institutions or way of doing things ... but who finds it a very profitable place in which to do business." The market, according to govern-ment canon, is a good in itself, a regulator that renders other moral judgments redundant. capable of saving the environ-ment, rationing health care and transforming the economy. In the market, success is the highest moral value.

By this logic, of course, the market ought to de-cide who can watch the Wimbledon final. If Mr Murdoch, success incarnate, can afford to buy the nation's most popular sporting fix-tures and sell them to his subscribers, by the market rules he has every right to do it. And if he wanted to insist that the players wear his tele-vision company's name emblazoned on their shorts, the market says he should be allowed to do that, too. Until now, the British seemed prepared to accept the bizarre proposition that Mr Murdoch's — or any other market player's — interests were somehow coterminous with

their own.

Nor was it generally accepted that the "choice" offered by the market is not necessarily an improvement mindedly put it, xenophobia. on lack of choice: which parent would prefer the "choice" of three bad schools over the availability of one good one?

And nor had it occurred to the Conservative Party, it seems, long subdued by the newspapers speak to five mil-lion voters had to be treated as a friend of the party, that on this occasion it could lose votes by being nice to BSkyB. It took Lord Howell, a Labour use his press to campaign peer, to point it out. Perhaps against the BBC, in favour of the broadcasting free market. on television after all.

Waiting in silence

Elizabeth Symons bemoans the unfair difference in the treatment of civil servants and their masters, and Michael White recalls previous

much talk in news-papers recently about an alleged Westminster/Whitehall "conspiracy" to under-mine the findings of Sir Rich-ard Scott's inquiry into the Matrix Churchill affair. The evidence adduced for the existence of such a conspiracy seems to be that a number of

government wriggles off hooks HERE has been was set up, some newspapers were all too ready to see a conspiracy behind every pub lic utterance, and to condemn ministers and civil servants

in the same breath.

The difficulties contingent upon the way in which the inquiry was set up were obvious from the beginning. In a letter dated December 23, 1992 tence of such a conspiracy seems to be that a number of the condition of t

quiry into the security impli-cations of the Profumo affair

fore a tribunal brought under the Act of 1921". Such a tribu-nal was not established in

that many of the short-comings which were identi-fied in relation to the Clark inquiry into Critchell Down in 1954, and the Denning in-quiry into the security impli-Over three years later, the

in 1963, would arise again in respect of the inquiry into the Matrix Churchill affair.

concerns we had in 1992 remain. Most importantly, those who may be the subject The report of the Royal of criticism which may dam-commission under the chair-manship of Lord Justice careers and ultimately lead to Salmon in 1966 said that the problems of dealing with such judicial inquiries were such that, "if in the future there is which has been brought a nationwide crisis of confidence about any matters of this kind, they should in our opinion be investigated be defend themselves as robustly as they could. Civil servants, however, were not able to

ADVERTISEMENT Labour & BR

Labour sat back and said rail privatisation wouldn't happen, yet £1.8 billion has been wasted and £800 million a year in public subsidy looms. Making franchises "publicly accountable" won't address the inherent inefficiencies of a fragmented system. Reintegration is inevitable.

Labour has been asked to protect public funds by keeping its options open, including renationalisation without compensation. This does not require any policy or spending commitments. Though late in the day, the BR sell-off can be

halted and reversed - whether Labour grasps the nettle now (which we would applaud) or not.

Suzon Forscey-Moore, Adviser Action for Justice, PO Box 54, Cambridge CB5 8BB Tel/Fax: 01223 327634 a4j.info@msunion.org

On May 25, 1995 in the Financial Times, Action for Justice first notified prospective investors in BR that they risked renationalisation without compensation as depriving the UK of an integrated rail system without the consent of the people was a wrongful act. undertaken without moral authority. The argument can be won in the court of public opinion with your support.

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Name [block capitals] ...

ACTION for JUSTICE

the independent campaign for government accountability

or US helicopter firms in 1986 — smoked out Leon to cope.

She will not get much time. Ministers are invok-

missed an open goal. Already huge efforts are being made to minimise the

whether to sell to European

damage from what Mr Major sees as his last awkward legacy from Mrs T. Backed by Douglas Hurd, Lord Howe (the Chancellor

a bucket of whitewash over inquiry option, as Labour's it". At least Lord Carring-Robin Cook keeps saying. Scott is naive and ignorant, ton's Foreign Office team they say. Ian Lang, the current had resigned when the 1982 invasion was confirmed. At least the Westland fiasco —

trade secretary, has been deputed to handle the Com-mons statement, not Mr Major. Some Labour MPs fear "another Westland" if his labour shadow, Marga-ret Beckett, lacks the detail

ing the need to avoid libel threats to justify not handing out advance texts of the 1,800-page report. Selective leaking between

now and then may get minimpale Tory MPs on the

Whitewash by the gallon

O WONDER that Opposition politicians are getting twitchy about the Scott Report as next week's publication day draws near. There have been from many occasions in been too many occasions in the past — Westland and the Falklands to name but two — when governments which looked cornered by a damning and authoritative verdict have escaped the

Scott ought to be a welcome symbol to Tony Blair and his allies of all that was short-sighted, sleazy and ruinously counter-produc-tive about the Thatcherites tive about the Thatcherites' graphs Franks recognised political reality. Mrs
Third World arms sales at the end of the cold war. We inc. "We would not be justi-

what happened in 1982-83 when the veteran mandarin, Lord Franks, then 77, was wheeled out to stage an inquest on how exactly Margaret Thatcher's goverument blundered into the Falklands war it went on to

win at great cost. The bulk of his report was damning of assorted errors and misjudgments. But in his final three para-

Those phrases were

leaked to the Sunday papers the weekend before Franks reported. Bernard Ingham, her wily press secretary, further set the scene for "Franks Clears Maggie" headlines.

In reality, as ex-premier Callaghan (who had thwarted an earlier invasion scare with no fuss or loss in 1977) noted, Franks had painted a splendid pic-ture; then — in final paragraph 339 — "he got fed up the end of the cold war. We ine. "We would not be justi- with the canvas that he cess, though it was their ended up selling arms to fied in attaching any criti- was painting and chucked choice over the tribunal-of-

Brittan as well as Michael Heseltine. But Mrs Thatcher escaped, not least because Neil Kinnock's speech in the key debate

whose penny-pinching de-fence cuts in 1982 gave the junta its green light) has rubbished the Scott pro-

isters off media hooks and pre-election "unity" hook. In 1982 the Sun famously proclaimed "Gotcha". The Opposition would do well not even to think it can do

Chubby Wise

Orange

blossom

specialist

HUBBY WISE, who has

died aged 80, was the fiddler with one of the

most momentous bands in

Bill Monroe's 1946 Blue Grass

Boys. It featured guitarist Les-

ter Flatt and hanjoist Earl Scruggs and helped Monroe draw the blueprint for

bluegrass.
Wise's fiddling combined, said bluegrass historian Bob Artis, "almost classical tone and sweetness of swing fiddle

with the blues sound upon which Bill insisted, adding his

Florida-born Wise took up

the fiddle in his teens. In the mid-thirties, with Ervin Rouse, he wrote the Orange Blossom Special, a tune about

a new train running through

Florida which became a

After three years with the Jubilee Hillbillies in Gaines-

ville, Florida, Wise joined Monroe in 1942. 'I was listen-

ing to the Grand Ole Opry one

ing to the Grand Ole Opry one Saturday night and heard Bill announce Howdy (Forrester) had to go in the Navy and that would be his last night with them. I said, 'Bill's going to need a fiddle player.' The next Monday I took the train to Nashville."

Monroe was doubtful about

own subtle soulfulness."

country standard.

Musical ride with excursions

ence of life. He was a solidlytrained musician who dedicated a great deal of time to the study of subjects that had nothing to do with music: a specialist in the late 19th century Italian *verismo* operas who made frequent excursions into rarely visited corners of the repertoire; and a dependable conductor whose tempi could change apprecia-bly from one performance to

brated internationally as several other conductors of his generation but in Italy he was a cultural institution. respected and admired for musical and literary erudition, for his pungent opinions on many matters and for his endless curiosity about people. Born in Bergamo, Gavaz-zeni was the son of a musicloving lawyer who, after the first world war, became a member of parliament in the liberal catholic Partito Popo-lare, Gianandrea at 13 beard some of Mussolini's first speeches as prime minister.

reception for Italian parlia-mentarians, at which the Hun-

zarian dictator, Admiral Hor-

Burne Hogarth

URNE HOGARTH

who has died aged 84,

was the strip-cartoon artist who brought Edgar Rice Burroughs's Tar-

zan Of The Apes back to new

Hogarth's life-drama was his school principal, a Mr Moyni-han, who scolded him for doc-

dling squiggly masterpieces during a spelling exam Later Hogarth admitted: "I was the

best map-drawer in the

His father, sensitive to his

son's creative efforts, enrolled

him, aged 12, at the Art Insti-

urday mornings he produced irreverent interpretations of

given to copy.

While still a teenager.

toonist at the Associated Edi-

tors' Syndicate. Here he pro-

duced his own feature,

and dramatic life. The first villain

Gavazzeni, the Italian conductor who has died aged 86, contrast was the esout of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in 1925, and the family returned to Bergamo. Gian-andrea, who had been study-ing at the Santa Cecilia rvatory in Rome, transferred to Milan where he grad-uated. By the mid-thirties some of his compositions, in-cluding the opera Paolo e Vir-ginia, were being published and performed with success, but in 1900 he travel ing and hanned further perfor-

His conducting career began in 1933. As an opera conductor, he was greatly in-fluenced by Toscanini, whose performances at La Scala he attended throughout the second half of the twenties, and Victor De Sabata. Gavazzeni revered them both and said on many occasions that he could not aspire to their greatness because his inter-ests were too diffuse. But he, too, conducted frequently at La Scala from the mid-forties to the end of his life and even served for a season (1967-68) as the house's artistic director. 'Tm not normally hadtempered, but during the course of that year I destroyed a telephone and put

vine romance

King of the swingers . . . a transformed Tarzan, right,

1984. In 1935 he drew the pirate strip Pieces Of Eight and a year later was given his

Hogarth applied for the po-sition, submitted a sample

Hogarth continued with

ter, Prince Valiant.

Accidents.

Hogarth taught art history for the WPA (Works Progress Arts Project) from 1933 to United Features. During this died January 28, 1996

and anthropology in Chicago and New York and by the age of 15 was an assistant car-strip to start on a new charac-

Famous Churches Of The World. and illustrated two sport features. He began his first comic strip. Ivy Hemmanshaw, in 1929 for the Bonnet Brown Company. For of the confines of the traditional terms of the confines of the

Leeds Features Syndicate he tional 12-panelled pages with drew a panel called Odd renewed vigour and power.



know become general manag ers or artistic directors of big opera companies, I send them my condolences, not my congratulations."

Gavazzeni appeared at virtually every major Italian theatre and at the Bolshoi, the Met and the Chicago Lyric Opera. His British debut was at the 1957 Edinburgh Festival, and he also conducted Anna Bolena at Glyndebourne. Yet, despite his cosmopolitanism and his frequent battles with the notoriously politicised Italian

period he experimented with other work, creating a strip

entitled Drago and, in 1947, beginning his only humour-ous strip, Miracle Jones. Leaving strips in 1947, Ho-garth co-founded the School

of Visual Arts in New York.

still regarded as one of the

leading centres for commer-

cial and fine art training. Up until his death he was teach-

ing analytical drawing at the Arts Centre For Design in

Pasadena, and his famous lecture demonstrations of anat-

omy and figure drawing pro-

vided the material for many

In the early seventies Ho-garth returned to Tarzan and produced original pictorial

versions of Tarzan Of The

Apes and Jungle Tales Of Tar-

definitive form. There is a powerful force in this later work and a strong identifica-

tion of Tarzan with his sur-

rounding environment.
A simple epitaph for

Hogarth would be his descrip-tion of Tarzan: "Whilst he could be unswervingly staunch and firm on matters of principle, he was warm and compassionate about matters

Burne Hogarth, strip-cartoon artist, born December 25, 1911;

of immediate need."

zan, resurrecting the king of

art instruction books.

arts bureaucracy (he once in tion, and during the thirties | zetti and Mussorgsky, but | him. Like most other theatre terrupted a concert, turned to | Petrassi, Gavazzeni and the | most of his published volumes | people, he loved to gossip, but, terrupted a concert, turned to the audience and demanded the resignation of the man who was then minister of entertainment), his attachment to his native country "Gianandrea could have learned English and German

in no time," his first wife told

me. "It would have helped his

career enormously. But he didn't care, He speaks French fluently, but what do you think he did after a performance he gave that was attended by President de Gaulle? Through the whole reception, he ignored him and talked to his chief bodyguard, because he was curious to find out how security was orga-nised for heads of state." Gavazzeni's repertoire was vast but eccentric. He rarely conducted Beethoven and Brahms because he believed that he had little to contribute there; instead, he revived rarely played works by Schubert and Mendelssohn. He defended the music of his old teacher, Idebrando Pizzetti, long after it had become un-fashionable, and he did the same for Casella. Respighi and Malipiero — all of whom he had known personally. He was also friendly with Dallapiccola and Petrassi, the two leading

composers of his own genera-

music historians Fedele D'Amico and Massimo Mila that lasted until their deaths. Petrassi, now 91, is the only survivor. In the thirties and forties Gavazzeni had also been friendly with Mascagni and Giordano. As a child he had met Puccini on the beach

N HIS student days be

attended the first Roman performance of Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire, under the composer's di-rection; thereafter, he contin-ued to follow the European avant garde attentively remained unenthusiastic about it. "The experiments of so-called avant gards opera have their value and their cultural interest," he said three years ago, "but they no longer exert any influence on society. And a work for the theatre that has no influence on society is dead. As the literary critic Emilio Cecchi used to say, it's a question of whether a work has or doesn't have a 'vital ring'. I don't know whether Pagliacti, for instance, is beautiful or ugly, but I know that it is alive, that it is a living organism."

As a writer, Gavazzeni dedi-

were collections of wide-rang ing essays and diary entries that dealt with various aspects of music, the theatre (sung and spoken), Italian and French literature, painting and plain, everyday life. He was a close friend of the Nobel laureate poet Eugenio Mon-tale, and he was said to have one of the largest private li-braries of poetry in the country. His home in Upper (old) Bergamo and his sum-mer house at Baveno, on Lake Maggiore, were repositories of books, music and paintings, and no matter where Gavaz-zeni travelled to conduct, he read, observed and digested. He was a short, dapper man with a shock of white hair, and a walking advertisement for smoking and drinking one

never saw him cigarette-less, except on the podium or at table. The last time I had supper with him he ordered two bottles of wine, of which I death true cleares and he the drank two glasses and he the His conversation was fasci-

nating because his memory for detail was extraordinary. he could describe the sets of the first production of Turandot, which he had attended when he was 16, and he could tell you what you ate the last or, born July 27, 1909; died Feb-time you had supper with quary 5, 1996

people, he loved to gossip, but, unusually, even his gossip usually turned out to be cora subject of talk when, after his first wife died, he married soprano he had recently met.
His last conducting appearance took place in the Romagnole town of Lugo, on January
7; the work was an obscure opera, L'aviatore Dro, by the

long-forgotten Francesco Ba-lilla Pratella, a one-time Futurist. Two weeks earlier, he had conducted an oratorio by another forgotten Italian com poser, Lorenzo Perosi, and as he came off the podium, he told the Corriere della Sera's critic, "Who knows whether this music is worth anything! But it's interesting, it was worth conducting."

Yesterday, his body lay in state in La Scala's foyer while Riccardo Muti, the ensemble's current musical director, conducted the Funeral March from Beethoven's Eroica in the empty auditorium, as Gavazzeni had done for De Sabata, and as De Sabata had

Birthdays

cricketer, 33; Prof Averil Cameron, historian of Byzan-tium, Warden, Keble College. Oxford, 56; David Daube, Regius Professor Emeritus of Civil Law, Oxford, 57; Osian Ellis, harpist, 68; Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, 83; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 81; Lady Elspeth Howe, chairman, Broadcasting Standards Council, 84; Lord Jakobo-vits, former Chief Rabbi, 75; Jack Lemmon, actor, 71; Morag Macdonald, former company secretary, the Post Office, 49; Sharman Macdonald, playwright, novelist, 45; Dr June Paterson-Brown, former 'chief commissioner, Girl Guides, 64; The Rev Dr John Tudor, superintendent minister, Westminster Ceniral Hall, 66; John Williams, omposer and conductor, 64.

Another Day

Pebruary 8, 1953, Cincinnati: This morning on the radio I heard a discussion about the kind of government Christ would establish on earth. It sounded extraordinarily like the present American admin-istration. It would be extremely righteous, democratic, but all-conquering. It would control all the administrative offices of government, and would be directed by human agents who would resist all evil, which is on the increase all the time. Christ would remain invisible, like agents of the FBI. Stephen Spender, Journal, 1939-1983. Faber, 1985.

various film. TV and stage productions but her influence went further than that "It was the great Mary Bruce who first made me proud I was a Negro," recalled her pupil Marie Bryant Bruce Bruce developed a 100-acre site two hours upstate from Harlem at Mount Marion, as a summer school but though many honours came her war over the vacant pupil Marie Bryant. Bruce gave her innumerable pupils the confidence to take pride the confidence ethnic backgrounds and so played a significant part in ensuring the survival of a major area of American

born August 25, 1900; died De-cember 12, 1995

Mohammad Azharuddin.

Terry Monaghan Mary Bruce, dance teacher,

hiring a player with so obvi-ous a leaning to the jazzy western swing style, but Wise absorbed Monroe's concept of

bluegrass and worked with him for six years, playing on such recordings as Blue Moon Of Kentucky. In 1948-49 he worked with another Monroe alumnus. singer Clyde Moody, collabo-rating on his song Shenan-doah Waltz, and in 1951 he had a spell with Fiatt and Scruggs after they too had quit the Blue Grass Boys. From 1954 to 1970 Wise was in country singer Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch Boys. In 1959 he made a modest album of fiddling standards for the small Stoneway label in Houston, Texas, It sold so

well that over the next nine years he made 17 more, producing sets of hoedowns, polkas, waltzes and tunes associated with Hank Williams whom he had worked with — and Bob Wills.

In the seventies he profited from renewed interest in blue-grass and western swing, and with the help of Rossi, his wife and agent, found regular work at festivals and country clubs.

Robert Russell "Chubby" Wise, rusician, born October 2, 1915; died January 6, 1996

Death Notices

In Memoriam

GACSE, Linds died audderly on this day lest year. She is greatly missed by Larry, her family & her triends. MOHILE, Allson died February the 8th 1974, Remembered Milks Abrains. WESS. Still missing my dear friend and colleague Jule, who died 8th February 1884. 8.

Sorry I missed NY but Happy Birthday.

Mary Bruce

Dancing on mean streets

Jackdaw

Prozac zone

I TOOK my daily 20mg in the

snappy candy-stripe green

and white capsule. I lost the

with who-knows-what; time

no longer felt always like

Time. And time drifted by.

And then . . . nothing.

lan I'd been led to expect.

I didn't become the New

"Just wait," said my GP, "it

when I complained that Nothing Much — good or bad —

seemed to be happening.) A

does take a while to kick in,

sense of time as a horrible oppressive go-slow empti-

inexorably zoning out into a

kind of "neuter" effect. Pleas-ant enough, this feeling of

tardy whirlpool (kind of like

white noise but without the noise), but was this why I had

started taking it in the first place? To end up on a kind of

heroin-without-the-kick(s)? The "neuter" field increased.

Nothing continued to hap-

pen . . . big time. I became the Nothing, noth-

ing became me ... Normally

someone who dreams to an excessive dagree, I stopped dreaming altogether. Thoughts of sex, and manifes-tations of sexnal desire, dis-

appeared altogether. Nor-

mally someone who listens to

music an excessive amount, I

stopped altogether. I stopped

cooking. Stopped reading. What's more, I began to ratio-

nalise these signs of a disap-

pearing world into a welcome overture: how pleasant, I

thought, finally to be free of

Yes, I was free now, just to

all these grasping demands on my pristine flesh.

month, two, three, four . . . instead of expansion. I felt the "equilibrium" effect slowly.

being at the centre of a cus-

being this nice new neutered.

frozen, prone, Prozac me. Whole days went by where

I literally sat in my Prozac

dow. Sure, I no longer swung like an amphetamine-mined

ape between twitchy peaks, but was this really prefera-ble? The cruel paradox: I began to manifest all the

symptoms of chronic depres-

sion. I am not repeat NOT your suicidal type character:

it is just not in my emotional

makeup . . . But as my bright Prozac Indian summer

turned into a dry effectless

autumn, it got to the stage where I realised I was coldly

considering — really, truly considering — suicide as an

I stopped taking it . . . In the

words of a current pop song, I'm not so manic now. Maybe

it's just that I've learned to

love the unevenness of my life; even become grateful for

its uneven texture, its seam-

lessness, its problematic un-predictability . . . I've learned to love the fact that I happily

Chair staring out the win-

She scoured the neighbour-hood for pupils but in doing so had to contend with street

mination to establish herself. Bruce set up a new studio above the Baby Grand Club on the corner of St Nicholas Avenue and West 125th Street, where she taught for

gotten, however, in her deter-

gangs, prompting her to enrol at Columbia University on psychology and Spanish courses. She soon got the best

summer school but though many honours came her way over the years the business contracted as she grew older and the school site was sold off to pay tax losses. In 1985 she was evicted from her studio by the landlord as property values rose in the

leading tap-dancers such as Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and "Honi" Coles were happy

to guest. Her young dancers also performed at the Apollo and in special events like Mike Todd's Gay New Orleans Show at the 1939

A bit rich

THE current debate roiling FEN American Center, the PEN American Center, the group that defends oppressed writers, is over whether or not rich people should be allowed to serve on its 98member board of directors. This is, of course, one of the century's most urgent issues. Some PEN writers seemed concerned that a mere brush with wealth will contaminate

them forever, and who can argue, as theirs is a delicate art, one that must be practised in a world free from the danger of mere commerce. In a world where free expression is forever in danger, we are glad to see that the writers and intellectuals at PEN understand what is truly important, and that they rec-ognise the inherent dangers of sipping \$8 cocktails with non-writers.

If rich people are allowed to serve on PEN's board and are found to be decent and interbe forced to confront their

That, of course, can be a painful process, and we're glad that some PEN members would rather spare them-selves and their colleagues such torture. Was a blow not struck for the rights of op-pressed writers everywhere when, a few years back, PEN ostracised Gayfryd Steinberg

for having the audacity to or-

ganise...social events?
Of course, there are a few problems with cleaving art from equity. Some PEN mem-bers, Norman Mailer comes to mind, are themselves wealthy, perhaps even wealthier than a few of the itinerant capitalists who would like to join PEN's board. Perhaps PEN officials should demand that writers divest themselves of their portfolios before becoming members, much in the way that some clergymen must take a vow of poverty before trying on their stiff white

collars.
The New York Observer esting despite the handicap of takes America's guardians of affluence, some writers may Church hotline

A telephone sex scanda i has

shaken the church authorities in Kongsvonger in Nor-way. The telephones in the church office in Brandval have been used for long tele-sex conversations with Thailand, USA and the Philip-pines. It was an outrageously high bill from Telenor that caught the attention of the head of the church but he has not been able to get an explanation. The phones are accessible to the priest, the organ-ist, the caretaker and the secretary. The question is whether it is the priest or the organist who is the culprit, since the secretary and the caretaker are women. From the Scandinanian Press, a quarterly publication produced in Canada.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. Email jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jack-daw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

ARY BRUCE, who has died aged 95. American. Irish and Cherotaught street kids of Chicago's South 5 ide and Harlem to dance — as well as stars like Marlon Brando, Katherine Dunham, and Dorothy Dandridge. The continuity of authentic or early show dance. Her interest was further aroused by Lew Leslie's Blackbirds, and continuity of authentic or she was teaching. A combina-vernacular jazz dance — the tion of more friendly finanfrom then on she tracked dance forms integral to jazz — cial assistance and a forceful down any visiting dancers to depended on unsung heroes and she was one of the last. to children in the South Side sequences for her teaching

there. When her sister opened a rival dance school just a few doors away she left for New York.

I've learned to love emptiness

and clamour, anguish and reward, the whole prismatic

register of the daily spool. Ian Penman relives his experi-

ence with Prozac in Esquire.

I'D REALLY like to snog my

new boyfriend. The trouble is, I don't know what to do. I

mean, does it involve tongues, or do you just kiss?

Is it something you do on a

walk in the country, or is it better in the back row at the

That's quite a lot of questions.

The thing is, there aren't quite so many answers. One of the

tages of the big smooch is that there are no rules. Just shut

open them if you prefer! Use your tongue if you feel like it,

if you don't! Explore every

nook and cranny of the inside and outside of his mouth, or if

or keep it safe on home ground

greatest, snogtastic advan-.

your eyes and go for it. Or

Totally confused, London:

Snogtastic

of "the enemy" - her Satur-day morning classes were packed with boys, all eager to perform in her Starbud troupe. She held annual per-formances at either Carnegie Any regrets were soon for Hall or City Centre when friend and it's your choice.

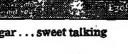
self-mutilation, fashion, and Everyone likes different things when it comes to snoghow to put a spell on boys. ging, but it's pretty much all pleasurable. You should just

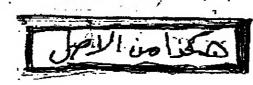
do what feels right. A problem from the Dear Tony section of the teenage girls' magazine. Sugar, one of the publications under attack for the frankness of its advice to teenagers. The current issue in-cludes articles on boys, gossip,



go from one extreme to another, from industrious ascetlips, gently and cautiously.

It's your mouth, it's your boy
Sugar . . . sweet talking





elecoma

pfor batt

ami namen 🖥

1.3. 42 14.40

. . . .

THE STATE OF

المناه والمراجعة

AN INC. PROPERTY

ः -- स्

Shubby Wise

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Competition plans in disarray as leaked paper warns of unexpected consumer trend in favour of rivals | Notebook

Rush to step off British Gas Tory heartlands call the tune

LANS to open up the gas market to competition in eight weeks' time are sliding towards chaos, as unexpectedly large numbers of customers prepare to deluge British Gas with requests to quit, an official briefing paper leaked to the Guardian warns.

According to the document, prepared for a senior trade and industry department official, up to 100,000 consumers may wish to leave British Gas and pay for energy from its compet-itors when pilot trials start in the South-west this year.

This haemorrhaging of BG | chell, head of the DTI's oil | now being set up to run the customers — 20 per cent in | and gas division, admits that | competitive market are unthe region — will cause alarm | the level of interest shown by | likely to be able to cope with at the company's trading div-ision. British Gas would lose 4 million consumers if the same proportion of its customers quit once national

tomers quit once national competition starts in 1998.

Two days ago British Gas amounced plans to separate the struggling trading division — to become part of a revamped group called British Gas Energy — from the profitable pipeline and exploration business. Loss of customers on this scale would bring further job cuts and endanger investors' dividends. danger investors' dividends. The briefing for John Mi-

consumers in the South-west had been much stronger than expected. It also spells out in blunt terms that the Government's launch date of April 1 is almost certainly unfeasible. Written for a meeting chaired by industry regula-tor, Clare Spottiswoode, two days ago, the paper also reveals that Whitehall may opt for a face-saving exercise

by launching the competitive market formally on April 1 while deferring its full Mr Michell's briefing warns that computer systems

the large number of custom-ers switching from British Gas. It says: "At the very least the systems will inevitably have difficulty coping with the large numbers wishing to convert from April 1." BG's TransCo division, res-

ponsible for running the national gas network, is said to have warned that it can cope with 10,000 conversions a day "with the important proviso that these are prob-lem free". Yet there could be problems over meter reading and computers with "very lit-

ties will be blamed for any difficulties that arise, the brief-ing predicts that "the level of dissatisfaction and complaint will increase sharply" if severe problems arise. Rather than defer the April

"a high risk option" which would lead to "considerable consumer dissatisfaction" — the paper sketches out the alternative of formally launching competition by the minis. ing competition by the minis-terial deadline while deferring its implementation

behind the scenes.
Admitting that "it would be necessary to prepare [consumers] in advance" and

Warning that the authori- | pointing out that a "good PR campaign" would be needed the paper suggests that this option would give TransCo more time to process applica-

more time to process applications from consumers wishing to switch suppliers.

The scheme would mean
consumers being billed by
British Gas beyond April 1,
even if they had opted to
switch suppliers. These consumers would subsequently
receive a certural from PG and
later a bill from their new
supplier. The DTI refused to supplier. The DTI refused to comment on the leaked docu ment last night but said it was still "working towards" April

As snow ploughs and grit-ters struggle in the blizzards, surveyor Ron Light-foot (left) and his team at Britain's only rock salt mine are stretched to capacity to supply councils The 700ft deep, 12km Union Salt Mine at Winsford, Cheshire, expects to produce 1.5 million tonnes

of salt this year.
Mr Lightfoot sald: "We use high explosives to blast the workface. It is then crushed to its working size and treated with an anticaking agent to prevent it

from going into solution." The Christmas and New Year freeze triggered 215,000 home and business claims costing £320 million, the Association of British Insurers said yesterday.

The present freeze may cost less because the most vulnerable buildings probably succumbed at Christmas, when more premises were empty and it had often been several days before remedial action was taken.

The ABI estimated that more 100,000 businesses, nomes and schools suffer domage at Christmas but had no insurance. In Scotland, more than one in three households had no

contents insurance.

An SFA inquiry into Win-

An SFA inquiry into win-chaster has been under way for nearly two years, but other, unspecified areas of in-vestigation have all been

closed. Inquiries now focus on seven deals, struck by

Winchester for Codelco on January 4 1994, totalling about 70,000 tonnes of copper.

Codelco used many brokers and traders in the London

metal markets during a disas-trous spree of speculation in the early 1990s, the bill for which totals more than \$200

million. Codelco has begun

civil proceedings against one such firm, Belgium's Soge-

The SFA yesterday con-firmed it had complied with

the High Court deal, but

refused to comment further

but not against

min, but Winchester



challenging task.

have set his political antenna The areas keeping the economy on the boil are Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland not the regions likely to de-liver the votes which will see

ence on the Conservative party's poll prospects, the South-east, Midlands and East Anglia, are lagging. So even if the economy as a

which count for most in Tory planners' ballot box calcula-tions are not. They will need an infusion of the feel-good factor, if Mr Clarke and his colleagues are to have any chance of feeling the same way come the election. A rate cut is not quite a tax cut on the Conservative wish-list, but would do for openers.

thought about the industry's periments in the gas and electricity markets will be less the entertainment and computer worlds. Nynex and Bell time of the next general Atlantic are adhering to the



Edited by Mark Milner

FTER two quarter-point cuts in interest rates in as many months, expectations that a third was immiup to yesterday's regular monthly meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank

of England, Eddie George.
Two new pieces of information may have sharpened the tone of yesterday's discussions, however, and certainly left the City lecking for an left the City looking for at least one more cut in borrowing costs — which would take UK base rates to 6 per cent —

The first change in the pic-ture was the announcement on Tuesday of a very gloomy set of figures on manufacturing output, a gloom which was deepened, if that were needed, by lay-offs at Jaguar. Some analysts argue that

the poor manufacturing performance owed at least somehigh stock levels. But if the economic data was not clearcut enough to set the Chancel-lor pondering the next move, yesterday's regional trends survey from the Confedera-tion of British Industry will

the Conservative party re-elected. The regions which will have the biggest influ-

whole is in better shape than some of the headline figures suggest, the local economies

Huge but hairy

HE planned alliance be-tween Nynex and Bell Atlantic may not be a step on the way to rebuilding giant broken up in 1984 by the US anti-trust authorities. But the size of the merged busi-ness — it will have a market their feet to protect their ness — it will have a market capital of \$55 billion (£36 billion) — indicates the scale of business in global factory for the Government, desperate to polish up the tarnished name of privatisation, is that the expense of privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation is the privatisation in the privatisation in the privatisation in the privation in the privatisation in the

AME Pauline Neville-

Jones wanted Paris. The Foreign Office of-

fered Bonn, but she turned

it down. So now the most

after a spell advising on the

Bosnian peace accord. Having risen to the

vestment banking arm as a

first, that big enterprises under common ownership are the way to compete in a huge,

fast-growing market.

British Telecom, with its links with the German industrial giants Viag and RWE, is a follower of the second that alliances rather than acquisitions are the way ahead. Alliances have the advan-tage of putting less strain on the corporate balance sheet. The risk is shared and the partners pool their different skills and assets. However, even with this route the costs are considerable. Analysts estimate that BT will have to

invest about £600 million in its German venture. The mega-merger path is The mega-merger pain is strewn with engagements where the partners never make it to the altar. Nynex and Beil Atlantic, if they do get together, will have to define their objectives clearly. The changes in US telecon legislation, expected to be passed into law this week,

will open up huge new oppor tunities for them in the US home and abroad will be a

Little to gas about

"HE demerger of British Gas was necessary to open the way for compe tition, Energy Minister Tim Eggar told the House of Commons on Monday. Well Mr Eggar has always been good on the theory. But despite his undoubted determination, the theory is proving tricky to

put into practice. Behind the scenes, as the internal Department of Trade and Industry document we publish today shows, the break-neck push for competi-tion starting in the Southwest this April looks pretty chaotic. That is to be expected. The Government has shape the gas industry should take so many times since privatisation 10 years ago, that the process was nev

to run smoothly. British Gas, too, has put up pretty obdurate resistance to hange and only now - with the demerger — has come up with plans to form a consumer-oriented gas supply

But it is interesting to note that plans to open up the electricity market to full competi-tion in 1998 look equally chatowards liberalisation was sei and carefully plotted from 1990 at the time of privatisation.

As in the gas industry, some of the established players — the regional electricity companies — are making loud noises about the impossibility of meeting the date. Partly they are reflecting experience of competition in the industrial market in 1994 an unmitigated disaster —

Her appointment will

belp NatWest build up business, said chief executive Martin Owen. Dame Pauline reckons to

'strengthen the bank's con-

tact with governments and

its understanding of the

Previous jobs have ranged from spells as first

secretary in Washington to

Dame Pauline will not

start her new job until

June and the size of her sal-

Telecoms firms square up for battle

Mark Tran in New York and Micholes Bermister

Donth Netices

ter Meritageraffet

Church hollist

HE jockeying for power in the lucrative global telecommunications market continued apace yesterday with multi-million-pound moves on both sides of the Atlantic. In New York, Nynex and Bell Atlantic, two of America's most aggressive regional telephone companies, revealed that they were holding merger talks to create a \$55 billion (£35.5 billion) carrier to compete directly with AT&T and British Telecom in

the world market.

Meanwhile BT confirmed Meanwhile BT confirmed that it was recruiting a second German partner to beef up its bid for a large slice of Deutsche Telekom's market. RWE, one of Germany's leading industrial groups, is to join Viag Interkom, the telecom joint venture set up last the professional partner.

BT's latest move will give it the opportunity to investigate lecom joint venture set up last year by BT and Viag, the Ba-varian electricity and chemi-cals combine. BT is expected to invest up to £600 million in

The Nynex/Bell Atlantic deal would be a pooling of interest rather than an outright | countries are committed acquisition. Shareholders in each company would receive shares in the combined en-tity. Price has been the key issue in months of talks.

A union of Nynex and Bell Atlantic would create a telecoms company with 1995 revenues of \$26.8 billion and a market capitalisation of around \$55 billion — more than double that of MCI and Sprint, the second- and thirdlargest long-distance companies in the US. Nynex serves New York and the north-east, Bell Atlantic covers six eastern states and Washington.

A spate of mergers or alli-ances is expected in the US following legislation that allows cable, local and long distance companies into each other's markets. President Clinton is scheduled to sign the bill today.

Nynex and Bell Atlantic are said to have their eye on the reduction in, all BT world market, especially the from August next year.

They will take on front-run-ners BT-MCI and AT&T, who are rapidly carving up the es-timated \$300 billion world market between them. Through alliances, partnerships and consortia, BT and

AT&T are trying to establish beachheads in as many countries as possible. The goal is to serve households and businesses on every continent. China is a particularly coveted prize.

coveted prize.

Finding an ally in Europe may be difficult for Nynex and Bell Atlantic — because most of the main carriers have chosen their partners. BT has already joined fores with MCI while Deutsche Telekom and France Telekom.

the residential market in Germany. This would pit the partners against Deutsche Telekom, the state-owned monopoly, which is expected to be privatised this year.

The major European

under EU legislation to open their telecom markets to full and fair competition by the

beginning of 1998. Georg Obermeter, chairman of the Viag management board, said that the combina-tion of Viag and RWE would enable the three companies to cover 80 per cent of the Ger-man population and provide "a real alternative to the incumbent

• The Cable Communications Association yesterday warned Oftel that a further period of tight retail price controls on BT could jeopar-dise the development of competition and restrict the spread of real consumer choice. It said the regulator should concentrate on BT's wholesale prices. It estimated that its own proposals, assum-ing current inflation levels, would result in a freeze on, or reduction in, all BT prices

Winchester says regulator has Chile copper deal 'concerns'

Den Atkinson, Patrick Donovan and Paul Murphy

INCHESTER, the commodities trading group headed by 215 million-a-year Charles 'Copperfingers' Vincent, last night said City supervisors had raised "concerns" about a series of deals struck with the Chilean copper company, Codelco. The group said that it would respond formally to the matters raised.

Mr Vincent's public rela-tions advisers, headed by Sir Tim Bell, issued a statement after receiving a confidential letter from the Securities and Futures Authority outlining the status of its investigation

into Winchester.

The company had put legal pressure on the SFA to say whether it was investigating the company and, if so,

whether further action today received, from the to the concerns that they have wasplanned. SFA, a letter setting out their expressed." In an imusual move. Winchester asked Mr Justice Og-

nall last Friday to order the agency to make up its mind within five days, claiming

not made any allegations of that publicity surrounding misconduct against Winchesthe inquiry was damaging ter, no decision having yet been taken to institute formal The SFA do not raise any concerns that

Winchester were responsible for or had any part to play in Codelco's losses'

In the High Court that the SFA would write to Winches-ter by the close of business In a statement last night,

Winchester said: "As directed by [the judge] in court on Feb-

An agreement was reached | disciplinary proceedings "The SFA do not raise any concerns that Winchester

were responsible for or had any part to play in Codelco's "The SFA will be receiving

potential concerns in relation

to the seven trades conducted

with Codelco. The letter emphasises that the SFA have

Gehe bids for Lloyds Chemists chem was now in a position where it would be stretched to

Unichem, Britain's third biggest drugs retailer, which made an agreed £528 million cash-and-paper bid for Lloyds three weeks ago, said it was "considering its response". vinced last night that Uni-

BIDDING war broke out

yesterday for Lloyds Chemists, Britain's

second biggest drugs retailer,

after the German group

Gehe, owner of the Hills

Chemists chain, pounced with a £584 million cash

snapped up Britain's largest maceuticals distributor, AAH, last year, means a bigger pay-out for Lloyds' chairman and founder, Allen Lloyd Mr Lloyd, who set up the group in 1973 from a part of Gehe." single chemist's shop in Warwickshire, holds a 7.5 per cent which has expanded rapidly stake in the company, which, through a series of aggressive on Gehe's offer, is worth around £45 million. Announcing the offer.

chem, which owns the Moss | he was confident of success-Chemists chain, is on the fully integrating the Lloyds point of raising its offer. The bid from Gehe, which | He added: "We believe that the success of our acquisitions is due to a large extent to the improved performance we encourage in the companies we acquire. AAH has al-ready benefited from being Stuttgart-based Gehe.

acquisitions across Europe, was immediately made higher offer of between 470p favourite to win Lloyds by 2nd 500p.
City analysts.
Unichem shares closed up Gehe's chairman, Dieter Kämmerer, described it as "very generous", adding that City analysts. Unichem shares closed up John Richards, of brokers "very generous", adding that NatWest Securities, said Uni-

bid more but could not risk seeing Lloyds fall to Gehe "If Gehe gets it, Unichem have got a very big competi-tor on their hands," he said. "They can't afford not to raise tion hanging over whether they can (raise it)." Last night, Lloyds shares

closed up 23p at 467p, against Gene's offer of 450p, indicat-ing that the market expects a

NEC deal with Groupe Bull puts Japan in PC big league

JAPAN yesterday stepped up its fight for a leading place among the world's personal computer makers against dominant American companies such as IBM, Apple, and Compag, writes Nicholas Bannister.

The Japanese company is to inject \$283 million (£184 million) into cash-strapped, un-quoted Packard Bell, which lossmaking US computer a complex deal with France's partially-privatised Groupe | business.

Bull that strengthens Packard
Bell, the home computer
maker in which they both
have a 19.99 per cent stake.

The deal will make Packard
Bell the largest PC maker in
the United States, with 13 per
cent of the market.

The deal will make Packard
diversify into the corporate
PC market. "We looked at it
and decided it was faster and

Michel Fromont, the Pack-ard Bell vice-president responsible for Europe, said the deal was designed to achieve NEC, the top Japanese computer manufacturer, has done of Zenith Data Systems, Bull's Bell had 45 per cent of the US management expected to home computer market return Zenith to profit this which left little room for ex- | year.

cheaper to go for an acquisi-tion," he said. "We also needed more cash for our existing business."

managing director for international strategy. Her appointment is aimed any is not being disclosed at beefing up NatWest as a because she will not be a di-global player and comes rector. In the next few just months after the bank months she is to act as a

signed up former foreign senior advisor to the Bossecretary Douglas Hurd as | nian peace accord. TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Nothing like a Dame

formidable woman in the foreign and economic pol-diplomatic service has icy context in which gov-

heights of political director and deputy under secretary Bonn and a secondment to

of state in the Foreign office, Dame Pauline, aged she briefly headed the Joint 56, is joining NatWest's in Intelligence Committee.

plumped for the NatWest — ernments operate."

France 7.54 Italy 2,360 Singapore 2.13 South Africa 5.43 South 10.68 South 10. ireland 0.9525

Norway 9,68 Switzerland 1,792
Portugal 230.00 Turkey 93,563
Saudi Arabia 5.71 USA 1,5025

elolum 45.25

Rolls clinches £97m sale of Trent engines in Singapore

ROLLS-ROYCE announced another breakthrough in the lucrative South-east Asian market for its Trent 800 aero-engine yesterday, with a \$150 million (£97.6 million) order from Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise (Sale) for six Trent-powered Boeing 7778 urttes Šimon Beavis.

The order was announced at the Asian Aerospace show in Singapore as the group's chairman, Sir Ralph Robins, predicted that Asia would soon overtake the United States as the world's biggest aviation market. In the next 10 to 15 years some 35 per cent of all aircraft orders would come

from the region.
Singapore Aircraft Leasing is the sixth organisation to order Trent power for Boeing's newest twin-jet, and the fifth in the Asia-

Pacific market.

John Cheffins, managing director of the group's commercial aero-engine group, said the order lifted the Trent engine's share of the 777 market to 36 per cent.



Manufacturing hard hit in key marginals ● Demand strong on Celtic fringe ● No hint of rate cuts

Downturn targets Tories Fears of German

Sarah Ryle

VIDENCE that the grounds are suffering most from the current economic slowdown

emerged yesterday. But there was no immediate move to cut interest rates, now at 6.25 per cent, after yesterday's monthly meeting on monetary policy between Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George. City analysts made plain

they were not expecting a third base-rate reduction in as many months, despite continuing sluggishness in the manufacturing sector and

capture to win a fifth term. A regional breakdown of a recent national survey of fac-tory chiefs, published yester-day by the Confederation of day by the Confederation of British Industry and eco-

Strategies Ltd (BSL), underlined the evidence of an overall flattening of demand. The picture was particu-larly gloomy in six electorally crucial regions. Manufacturing orders in the past four months fell or slowed in the South-east, the West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside, the North, the North-west and dropped most

side and the North register ing lowest on the scale. Demand was stronge Britain's extremities which

have traditionally proved relatively barren ground for Conservatives. Demand staged a recovery in the South-west and continued to grow in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The only other region to show growth was the East Midlands, which includes Mr Clarke's Rush-cliffe, Notts, constituency. On the key electoral issue

of employment the picture was only slightly different. The health of manufacturing

particularly in regions the those regions, with East shire & Humberside, the Conservatives will need to Anglia, Yorkshire & Humber-North, the East Midlands, the South-east and North-west is the past four months. It strengthened in the South-west, Wales and the East

Export growth ground to a standstill in the West Midlands and slowed in the South-east but manufacturer. in the South-west, Scotland and Northern Ireland continued to find success oversess. However, firms in all th

regions except East Anglia and the North are expecting a recovery in export orders and nationally manufacturers have predicted stronger growth in total orders than in steeply in East Anglia. employment was poorest in export demand for the first Output was also weakest in Scotland. East Anglia, York-time in a year.

But look a little close

more than two shares.

second, the overall number of

investors has declined by a million to 10 million over the

past four years — despite mega-flotations including

those of the Government's remaining holdings in BT and

generators, National Power and PowerGen. In short, even

failed to create the share ownership culture that That-

herite policies had intended.

The other reason why com-

they can abandon the small investor is that their overall

share of the equity market continues to decline. In 1975

Sids owned 35 per cent of the entire stock market. That pro-

6 years of privatisation has

supply growth.

Mr Krupp said that Germany may face "recessionary tendencies" this year ary tendencies" this year and that there was no real hope of a significant uphope of a significant up-turn. The government maintains that economic stagnation is a "temporary panse", angrily dismisses talk of recession and pro-jects growth of 1.5 per cent this year.

But dismal economic data are nouring forth almost More than 50 per cent of all private shareholders hold no

les Trayper in Secur

ERMANY could be

Theading into a slump despite government

protestations to the con-trary, a senior central banker said last night.

More grim economic disclo-sures showed industrial

orders down 5 per cent on a

year ago. Hans-Juergen Krupp, a council member of the

Bundesbank suggested it could move to cut interest

rates to give the economy a fillip and boost low money

are pouring forth almost daily. The official unem-ployment figures, due

today, are tipped to reach a record level of 4.16 million, or well over 10 per cent Yesterday the economics ministry reported that in-dustrial orders in December were 5.1 per cent down on a year earlier, and as much as 5.5 per cent down

slump increase

in western Germany.

The Bundesbank said yesterday that M3 growth was an annualised 2.7 per cent last year as opposed to a target of up to 6 per cent.

Across the Rhine fresh evidence emerged of a French economic down. French economic down-turn, with industrial output down 0.5 per cent in the third quarter of last year

and government acknowledgment that growth this
year would be "clearly below" 2 per cent.
In Paris, Alain Lamassoure, the budget minister,
admitted in a resustrator inadmitted in a newspaper in-terview that unemployment was bound to rise in the next three months. But he added: "There is still room for cuts in base rates — but the basis already exists for a recival in investment and

News in brief

Takeover chief warns PR firms

THE Takeover Panel chairman, Sir David Calcutt, last night warned financial public relations companies to be more careful in releasing information during bid situations.

Sir David's warning follows last December's bid for Amec construction group by the Norwegian group Kvaerner, when Amec sacked its PR firm, Financial Dynamics, after it was criticised by the panel for alleged breaches of the takeover code. Sir David, whose letter to PR firms has not been published, is thought to have called for financial information to be released by PR firms in a more orderly way.

Financial PR firms are not currently regulated, but several in the industry, led by Simon Lewis, president-elect of the Institute for Public Relations, have been pressing for greater self-regulation. — Ion King

Help for disabled cut

MORE than 7,500 disabled workers will be hit by the Government's decision to restrict its Access to Work scheme — which pays for equipment and workplace adaptation to allow people with disabilities to work on an equal footing with other employs — to those who are currently out of work.

— to those who are currently out of work.

In a parliamentary answer to the shadow employment secretary, David Blunkett, the Government has disclosed that 81 percent of the 9,400 people a year benefiting from the scheme annually are employed and will now lose assistance under the new restrictions. Demand for help under the scheme has been strong since it was established in June 1994, pushing the cost to £19 million in 1995-6. The unemployment qualification, to be reviewed in April, has been introduced to cut the 1996-7 cost to £12.9 million. — Saumas Milne

Headlam floors rivals

BEADLAM, the Northampton-based distribution group, became Scritain's biggest floor-coverings distributor yesterday after snapping up the rival carpet transporter Mercado for up to £11 million, and the Dutch furnishings distributor Malie for £9.7 million. The two acquisitions are being part-financed by a one-for-four rights issue which will raise £18.3 million. The shares gained 8p to 220p, against the rights price of 185p. — Ian King

Japanese surplus slashed

JAPAN'S current account surplus, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, fell by 14.5 per cent to \$110.44 billion (\$72 billion) last year, its lowest level for four years, the finance ministry amounced yesterday. Economists noted structural trends that should keep the surplus declining for the next few years. Among these are the growing preference by Japanese consumers for cheaner fireten mode.

consumers for cheaper foreign goods.

Even so, the trade surplus last year was almost \$135 billion, showing a 7.6 per cent decline, its first for five years. This was offset by Japan's growing deficit on the travel account, which was a record \$38.5 billion. — Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

BAA increases profits

BAA said nine-month pre-tax profit, excluding one-time items, rose 11.4 per cent to £361 million as growing passenger traffic boosted the airport operator's retail sales. BAA runs Heathrow, the world's largest international airport, making it one of the main beneficiaries of a worldwide recovery in air travel that is

expected to produce 5 per cent annual growth until at least 2000. BAA, spending £A4 hillion over 10 years to expand overseas and upgrade its London airports, also said it would sell £260 million of 10-year convertible bonds to finance the expansion. It is the second time in a month that BAA has sold bonds, which it views as cheep funding. — Bloomberg

Porsche agrees flexibility

PORSCHE, the German luxury sports car maker, said it had agreed to halt lay-offs until the end of 1997 in return for more flexible working practices. "In times of high demand we will work more, in times of low demand, less. In return, Porsche will refrain from laying workers off until the end of 1997," the company said. Porsche's chairman, Weodelin Wiedeking, said the car maker could not adopt a day to reduction to demand. The agreement is that could now adapt production to demand. The agreement is that staff may work eight hours per shift, with extra time compensated by days in lieu, guaranteeing the 35-hour week. - Reme

It may be too late for Aunt Maude

OUTLOOK/British

Gas boss hit a nerve, writes

Patrick Donovan

HEN the definitive story of the 16-year extion is written, it may be an off-the-cuff remark from Richard Giordano, chairman of British Gas, which finally marks the collapse of the Conservative dream of wider

share ownership.

Building a nation of property owners and stock market investors was the dual thrust of Thatcherism. British Gas was the all-time most popular stock when Sir Denis Rooke, then chairman, floated it off

The float symbolised the get-rich-quick mood of the times. "Sid" from the market ing campaign entered the English language as a syn-onym for the small private

Mr Giordano now appears to be turning his back on the "Sida" on which the flotation was based, saying that he is determined to reduce the company's tally of small investors. As he put it on Tuesday: "We have to find a way to ease Aunt Maude out with-

Many other public com-pany directors privately

be a pain. They spend annual | drive to promote wider share meetings droning on about ownership. And the comethics and corporate governance — issues that profes-sional investors rarely raise. Legions of small investors turned on British Gas after it scandalised public opinion by giving outgoing chief execu-tive Cedric Brown a 75 per cent salary rise while cutting

And Sids cost money to ser-vice. Even the smallest investor is entitled to everything

from an annual report to com-

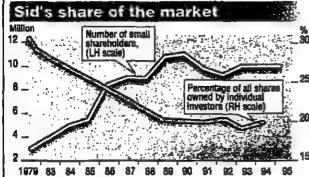
the concept in the run-up to the General Election. A special committee of the great and the good, launched by Treasury minister David Heathcoat-Amory, is nearing vestigation into how the number of small investors can be

ments come at a sensitive

time for the Government, as

efforts are made to repackage

increased.
If the likes of British Gas



pany circulars. Every single are no longer interested in one of British Gas's 1.8 mil Sid, it is hard to see what can lion small shareholders can cost annually between £10

and £12. Comments like these from any leading company would have made waves. Mr Glordano's remarks are especially heavily charged, as British by the time the Government Gas is so intimately associ- had sold the electricity supply ated with the Government's

be done. Ministers will argue that Britain has a far higher proportion of investors than France, Germany, Japan and even the US. And this is true: one in five adults holds shares - 11 million people had them,

portion is now down to 20 per cent, reflecting the continued expansion of big overseas inestors in the London market. If nothing eise, Mr Gior-lano's comments will widen the debate about the future of small investors. Undoubtedly their influence will continue to diminish. Undoubtedly the spout cant about the successful expansion of sbare ownership.

But as the sorry saga of Ce-dric Brown Illustrates, small shareholders play a vital role in challenging the excesses of boardroom greed. Small surprise, then, that the likes of Mr Giardano want to get rid

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Underside

Dan Atkinson

OWN-SIZING, the cure-all, bottom-kicking exercise pre-scribed ad nauseam for Britscribed ad nauseam for Brit-ish workers by bank economists, is starting to devour its devotees. A battle royal is under way between Don Eggington, TSB's chief guru, and Pat-rick Foley, his opposite number at Lloyds, over the top job in the merged group. As Mr Eggington admitted at a recent lunch: "It is real pistols at dawn

ITH debts of £2 billion, Peninsular & Oriental is seen by many City pundits to be going through a tight period, rhino-wise. But woe betide any who say so. One analyst who advised clients that P&O bad a "cash crisis" received a call from Lord Sterling, who bar-racked him in the manner made famous by Capt. Bob, via a speaker-phone. This took place while a P&O board meeting was in pro-Lord protests too much?

PRES-SKI (1): If, dur-Aing the next few days, the Treasury seems to have got the hump with the Bank of England, Howard Davies and Manchester
City are to blame. Mr
Davies, City fanatic, had arranged to travel to Manworld Economic Forum) chester with die-hard Queens Park Rangers supporter and Treasury mandarin, Sir Terence Burns, for last Saturday's match. Sir Terence was miffed that Mr Deputy-Governor had to cry off to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos. Sitting in the stand, courtesy of a contrite Mr Davies, Sir Terence saw QPR lose 2-0.



not a ghastly culinary innovation along the line of the BLT sandwich but something even worse. stands for Global Leaders of Tomorrow. Creepy, isn't it? Let's call them Führwjugend and be done with it.

HE US Treasury investigation of the Shanghai Paperchase forgery, depicted in the 1947 thriller T-Men, could have been conducted in a much more civilised manner. Why have treasury agents (Dennis O'Keefe and Alfred Ryder) risk their neckş when they could have used the latest innovation from Britain's Polyian Ltd, the 'counterfeit collection pouch"? Designed to take the heat out of the "angry confrontation" that often results when shopkeepers confiscate dud currency, the natty envelopes include a tear-off receipt for the dis-gruntled customer. The Post Office is already using them, and one would have expected the Bank of England to be pleased. Not so; in the promo material, the bicycle envelope contains a Fr100 Kilim note. The Bank claims Nous?

using a sterling note would imply official approval.

Great Western Trains, celebrated Day One in the private sector with a mission statement: "Our commitment remains to the delivery of a consistent, safe and reliable service." Really? The 5.32pm Swan-sea-Paddington "service" on Monday ended at an unscheduled stop at Didcot Parkway, with passengers turfed out into a Siberlan gale to await another train: the central-locking system was kaput. Cause? Too-high ballast between the tracks had ripped out the under-carriage plying. And this followed Great Western's first privatised train for 50 years — a bus between Pishgnard and Cardiff.

make the Guinness Book of Records, a group of Bulgarian musicians and actors is thought to be trying to raise £40,000 to stage a concert 18,000 feet up Mount Everest. Confirmation was hard to come by: group leader and mime teacher Alexander Hiev is otherwise engaged, riding a bicycle up Kenya's Mount Kilimanjaro. Obsessed?

riumph I

Bright spell

1100 7年の名乗機 - 中央担理 ight p

Cricket

rchief

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plus stashed

海狮马马科

no firesibility of

Umpire 'no' to Sri Lanka

TEVE DUNNE of New Zealand, one of the game's leading umpires, is set to join Australia and West Indies in refusing to take new in refusing to take part in World Cup matches sched-uled for Sri Lanka.

Dunne was due to stand in two of the four World Cup games to be played in the country but said he had 'had second thoughts" about taking part, in the aftermath of the bombing last week in Colombo which killed at least 76 people and injured about 1,400.

The Australia and West Indies teams have requested that the venues for their matches be switched from the island because of security risks and have said that they will forfeit their games if they are not

Dunne said yesterday: "Before Australia and the West Indies withdrew I was prepared to take the advice of the organisers, but clearly there are serious security concerns and I've had second thoughts." The New Zealand official

said he was more worried about his personal safety than possible recriminations from the International Cricket Council.

I have to say that I am now very reluctant to go to Sri Lanka. My first priority will be to do the sensible thing, and if there are consequences of that action I'll worry about them then," he

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's top cricket official is on his way to Calcutta to discuss security for his country's nya are still due to play in

come physically or mentally

handicapped, and some die

top or not, that he has some-



Black's white . . . a snow-covered Lord's makes a perfect backdrop for the umpire David Shepherd to show off the brand new black suit that he, and the other officials on the 12-man World Cup panel, will wear during the competition's night games. The reason for the change from the traditional white is that the white ball used under floodlights will be more visible to the batsman against a contrasting background

PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

Chingoka, said he intended to talk with his players, World Cup organisers, members of the ICC and the Sri Lankan authorities.

on Saturday to persuade the Australians and West Indians — and no doubt The president of the the match out of Colombo Board of Control for has to come from Sri Cricket in India, Inderjit Lanka." Bindra, said: "The Pilcom [Pakistan-Indo-Lanka Com-

The dispute between the Indian television company mitteel decision is that the matches cannot be shifted Doordarshan and the United States-based WorldTel has without the concurrence of been settled, and with it the the Sri Lankan cricket | threat to live broadcasting

Doordarshan had sued WorldTel after the American company, claiming it had not been paid, revoked its contract with the Indian the rights to Rupert Mur-

Doordarshan denied WorldTel's claim but has

now agreed to pay the outstanding 40 per cent of its \$4.75 million (£3.1 million) licence fee for the tournament rights and will allow the Hong Kong-based Star to handle international broadcasts while Doordarshan transmits to

Childerley splutters out of contention behind hot Rod

chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission.

This august body governed world-title fighting in the years before ladelfuls of sanctioning bodies — WBC, WBA, fighters rarely retire in comfort. A number of them be world-title fight and WBU — thickence physically or mentally and pentiles, having gambled away some \$10 million.

Patterson also promised to support two bills in the state legislature aimed at outlawing bare-knuckle fights. A fighter should be able to boxing saphabet some of it away so that the proportion of them be retired by the said. "Mike the state legislature aimed at outlawing bare-knuckle fights."

Patterson's is a political and the new York at 61, he is the acceptable and penniless, having gambled away some \$10 million. Patterson also promised to support two bills in the state legislature aimed at outlawing bare-knuckle fights.

STUART CHILDERLEY,
Britain's match-racing world champion in the Soling class, was eliminated on the second day of the Euros Australia Cup in Perth. He lost tralia Cup in Perth. He lost four of his five match races on a day of frustrating light

north-easterly winds. Though never out of touch with his opponents, Childer-ley failed to convert opportu-nities to his advantage. Only Rod Davis, the America's Cup skipper, maintained consistent excellence, although he too fell short of a perfect score

after losing to John Cutler in

the going tricky.

TIM LAMB is the favourite to take over from A C

up racing on these waters. lost to the American J J Isler, the local skipper Gordan Lu-cas and Sten Mohr of Denmark. But he — along with Mohr, Lucas and Neville Wittey - still qualified for the final, for which stronger

Smith goes down and maybe out

Mike Selvey

N INJURY to Robin Smith that threatens to put him out of the World Cup has shone another spotlight on the administrative chaos blighting the tournament even before it has begun.
The batsman damaged his

groin in taking a spectacular catch during England's 62-run win over a Lahore City XI in yesterday's practice match and may be out of action for a minimum of three weeks, which would rule him out of the competition. But doubt exists as to whether, under the tournament rules, a squad de-prived of a player before a ball has been bowled is en-titled to a replacement, and no clarification is likely to be forthcoming before the organising committee Pilcom gives a briefing in Calcutta on

"We wrote to the organisers on this subject before we left on this subject before we left home last week but did not receive a specific answer," the chairman of selectors Raymond Illingworth said in Lahore yesterday. "They said they would tell us the position on replacements at the open-

Although the organisers seem to be making up the rules as they go along, common sense suggests that in such situations consense the suggests of the rules as they go along, common sense suggests that in such situations consense. would be given. But if the passage of events so far is any-thing to go by — with teams ignoring ridiculously prema

ture demands for squad

ser Hussain would appear to be candidates should a replacement be required, although it is possible that the organisers would insist on Ramprakash because he and not Hussain was named in England's preliminary list of

certainty about itineraries and venues and even whether

they will take place at all—common sense is in short supply. Rarely can a sporting event have been anticipated

with such foreboding. Mark Ramprakash and Nas-

England's preliminary list of 18 players.
Smith, 32 years old and almost certainly at his last World Cup, retreated to the team hotel after sprinting 20 yards and diving full-length at deep midwicket to catch the former Pakistan Test player Manzor Flahi. "I felt player Manzoor Elahi. "I felt it as I dived and that's when I must have pulled the muscle," he said. "At this stage it feels very stiff and

The extent of the injury will not be known until today at the earliest and possibly not until the weekend, after rest, anti-inflammatory drugs and

ice treatment.

This probably represents
Smith's last chance to shine in the most significant compe tition in the game. "I feel very depressed." he admitted last night. "I'm very, very low. This World Cup means everything to me.

Some feel Smith had been fortunate to gain a place in the squad. He missed a place in the last World Cup final in Melbourne because of a back njury, and in the past couple of years has suffered loss of international form and a surgery last winter.
"From the vibes I was get-

ting from the management during the tour of South Af-rica I felt I was quite lucky to be here." be said. "I wanted to prove people wrong and show everyone I was still good enough to play and do a very

Even with a quick recovery, however, the latest in-jury may have sounded the knell to his ambitions. He seems unlikely to be fit for the first match, against New Zealand next Wednesday, and Nasser Hussain . . . awaits call | find it difficult to get back in.



the going tricky.

Gilmour, who was brought Smith, who retires in October as the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, the most important post in the English game. Lamb has been Smith's chief assistant on cricketing af-fairs. The TCCB's cricket

AC Smith, the former Warwickshire and England wicketkeeper, took up the post in 1987. He was awarded

the CBE last month. Nineteen wickets fell on the opening day of the historic day-night Sheffield Shield match between Queensland and New South Wales in Briscommittee chairman David bane. The game was played Acfield is another candidate.

Racing

Triumph is the ploy with Bob

heavyweight champion said smoking, anti-drugs and still 37, held light-welterweight doner Bradley Stone, died yesterday in his new role as doing four miles of daily road—and super-weiterweight titles after the fight.

Patterson battles for ex-fighters

Ron Cox

TVE weeks today the final day of the Cheltenham Festival will kick off with arguably the toughest race of all for punters to crack at the great meeting when a huge field of four-year-olds do battle for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

Already a handful of ante-

post favourites have come and gone, but time is running out for anything to challenge with Coral's after his easy win at Kempton. soon as the weather

relents, however, expect to see some fresh names burst on the scene. It is a pity that tomorrow's meeting at New-bury is likely to be frozen off, for the Stroud Green Hurdle could have resulted in a sig-nificant shake-up in the Triumph market.

Mark Tompkins, the New market trainer, had hoped to introduce Bob's Ploy against the likes of Paddy's Return,

Malton trainer left for the

sunnier climes of the Phil-

ippines last Sunday, the

yard has had three winners

After Kingdom Princess

and Sarasi, who were both

ridden by Lindsay Char-

nock, completed a 38-1

double. Miss Camacho joked: "Lindsay said to tell

"We don't normally have

many winners while he is

away, but this time we've

had three and the other one

was beaten a short head

dad not to come home.

from four runners.

handicapper when trained by Reg Akehurst last Flat season, Bob's Ploy has shown a real talent for jumping hur-dles on the schooling grounds

Patterson's is a political ap-pointment and he has the

resilience for it, being the

first heavyweight in history

following year: Articulate.

do something about this. to regain the world champion-"What I want to do is see to it ship. Knocked out by Ingemar

that when a fighter retires. Johansson in 1959, he whether he makes it to the returned the compliment the

thing." the former world clean-living, teetotal, non-heavyweight champion said smoking, anti-drugs and still

at Newmarket.
"It's true that Mark is pleased with him." said Phil Green, spokesperson for the Tompkins stable yesterday. The Triumph is the aim, but the weather has been against

Bought privately out of the Akehurst stable, Bob's Ploy will reappear in the colours of Will reappear in the colours of Keith and Maggie Barwell, who have enjoyed consider-able success with the Tomp-kins-trained Robert Dear, Eden's Close and Eden's Star. Bob's Ploy is widely avail-able at 33-1 for Cheltenham. Once he gets that all-important first run in public behind him, those odds could look

Paddy's Return, incidentally, did his Triumph pros-pects no harm when gamely failing to concede 17lb to Debutante Days at Sandown last

Bright spell for Camacho

ULIE CAMACHO is hoping her father Meu-hoping her father Meu-rice goes away on holi-two furlongs of the Avon was no surprise to Bailey.

year-old stayed on in deter-

mined style to see off Myt-

tons Mistake by two and a

Sarasi made all the run-

ning in the Number 1 in

1996' Handicap to beat Queen Of All Birds by a

length.
Alan Bailey's grand old

servant Mentalasanythin, ridden by Angela Galli-

more, turned over hot

favourite Beaumont by

eight lengths in the Thames

When the pair met at

Wolverhampton, Beaumont | Stakes.

half lengths.

Handicap,

Trice goes away on holiday more often. Since the Handicap and the three

A useful middle distance | ered to be just in need of the race. He is a 12-1 shot with Coral's.

when he retires he doesn't

The great Joe Louis, owing

millions in back taxes, did not

walk the streets but ended his

gas casinos, a gesture from gambling bosses who had won fortunes on his fights. Witfred Benitez, still only

have to walk the streets."

If, as seems likely, Newbury's Saturday card is lost as well, the Tote Gold Trophy Hurdle will not be saved for another day. Proposals to stage a less valuable version on a Newbury card transferred to next Tuesday, or at Chepstow a week later, were scrapped yesterday.
All-weather racing contin-

ues to keep the show on the road, and at Lingfield today David Loder can follow up his success with Cornish Snow day when he runs Seattle Saga and Meldorf. Seattle Saga (1.50) is an unknown quantity, but he will have been taught his job well and need not be anything special to win the Buddleia

Stakes first time out. Frankie Dettori teams up with Meldorf (3.50) in the Forsythia Conditions Stakes. This Lycius colt started favourite for the valuable Redcar Two-Year-old Trophy on the strength of an easy reekend when he was consid- Newcastle win, and though he

he would win with Angela in the saddle as she rides

the horse every day at

home and gets on very well

with him. "The horse does not run

for jockeys. Allan McKay.

who had ridden him in his

previous two races, is a

good jockey but this girl just kids the horse along."

Iona Wands, also based with Bailey at Tarporley, also excelled in the saddle

when delivering Boffy.

trained by Brian Baugh, to land the Welland Selling



is set to challenge Vincenzo Belcastro of Italy this spring

for the European super-ban-tamweight title. Wenton, who

outpointed Scotland's Wilson

Docherty this week to win a Lonsdale belt outright, be-

came British champion in

tragic circumstances in 1994

when his opponent, the Lon-

Tompkins . . . big race bid

was found wanting there he should prove different class to this opposition.

Hopes rise

on Saturday

AYR on Saturday holds out the best prospect of a return to turf racing. Mark

ager, was optimistic after con-

sulting with the Met Office

Catterick also anticipate

milder conditions before Sat-

urday, but the outlook is bleak elsewhere. Today's

Wincanton and Huntingdon

cards were called off yester-

day, along with Bangor

inspect at midday today.

for Avr

vesterday.

tomorrow.



Kintwyn (4.20) has been running well of late and, re-united with David Harrison in the Clematis Handicap, can get his head in front again. Harrison won twice on the top weight last year, including at Lingfield in February.

1985: Power 4 8 12 B Dayle 4-1 (C Brittels) 11 res FDSNS GUIDS - RDYAL PURITY Headway over 31 maj, best on one sace field furions, 4th of 14, bin St TWEL Stall. DESCOPEST: Over pace final 31.7th oil 17, bits 211 bits Micromain (Lingfield Intell, Stall, DESCOPEST: Over pace final 31, 5th of 10, bits 141 to Turken Geer (Lingfield Intel, Stall, BLUNGT OFFERSON: Effort 51 out, keyt on, 4th of 8, bits 51 to Descenden (Versonalit) 1 BESTER ASPECTOR One pace final 21, 4th bits in bid Decider Barvaton (Webvarhamp 2.20 WISTERIA CLAUNIQ STAKES TO CO. 612

1.50 DUDOLEIA MAIDEN STAKES 12 4F CLASS

450-44 ROYAL PROIT (14) W Muk 7-9-13 ...

0400-0 DISCORET (86) Gay Kalleway 4-6-10

lettings 4-5 Star Talant, 2-1 Same Of Procity, 4-1 Spandy Classic, 40-1 Schoo, Justin

2,50 IAPONICA HANDICAP 870 77.22,846 MCS-62 BOG CAMAND (2) (C) 8 Powers 9-7 646-2 GREEN 64000 (19) 5 Withoms 9-1 1021-25 DOBBOOK (19) 00 (85) M Jubrision 9-1 0000- HEAVEN EXECUT (1949) M Republic 9-1 00-0 DAUPEN (19) W HERSON 9-12 (868-60 MYSTERY MATTENAK (19) Mes 9 Sander 8-1

1916: Water Record 3 & 2.5 Sanders 4-1 (5 Door) & cop Settlings 2-4 Green Garn, 6-4 Domoor, 9-2 Disophin, 5-1 Mai Carners, 10-1 Mystary Mailings, 10-1 H THE GUIDE - MIX GAMAND: Stealy every, rigiden 21 cec, rap on well closing stages, has 10 by

3.20 PRIMINGE HANDICAP SY CLASS 3.20 PRIMINGE HANDICAP SF CL.600

401 113-125 CHEERY CHAPPY (15) (CC) D CLAPMEN 5-10-0 ...

402 100-000 TERROR (177 (CC)) D HICKS 5-0-13 ...

403 12-000 DESTART DYNASTY (2) (CC) B PRIME 8-0-12 ...

404 33-225 AWASHA (3) (87) (30) (40) (40) H-9-5 ...

405 ...

406 -207 HE RESTITUTE BOY (15) (CD) Mbs J Cram 6-0-7

406 20030- ROCKY TWO (4) (30) P Howing 5-0-9 ...

407 10-600 SUPPLIAO (5) (0) J Bridge 4-0-3 ...

408 105-244 HALIBERT (12) (0) P Brightyne 7-0-0 400 0558-0 DAAMERIA (30) (CD) F Howing 6-0-12 ... 410 40000- CSDAN GOV. (177) Mrs N Mactaley 4-8-11

Tomorrow's card at Newbury is subject to an early inspection this morning. Uttox-eter, due to race on Saturday, 1985: Tuner 4 9 8 Alex Grances 14-1 (D Histolia) 10 year

Lingfield all-weather Flat card with form guide PORME CARDES - CHESTRY CRAPPY: One pace line; turiong, 5m of 11, bis 61, to Chadwell INSTITUTE 50Y (25b), no impression final larlong, a further 18 back in 8m (Wolvertrampton to TEMODE proven along 31 out, no real headness, 9th of 15, bin 131, to Deave (Southwell 61, 5th DESTART OFFINASTY: Prominent until weakened approaching final harlong, lard of 6, bin 90

3.5	3,50 FORSYTHIA CONDITIONS STAKES BYO 1m C1,501		
101	674-71	BARZHAF (12) (03) G L Mpore 9-7	
OR.		BLUE FLYER (7) (CD) R tegram 9-2	
108		DOUBLE-O-SEVER (14) (C) M Johnston 9-3	
104		NULLDORF (119) D Loder 8-2	
IOS	<u>01-</u>	ACCOUNTANCY JEWEL (56) (C) K McAubile I-6	
08	00105-	HEVER COLF QUEEN (81) T Haughton 8-6	
QT.	5313-	LOTELY SMILE (192) (D) Paul Smith 8-8	

ell 2 9 2 R Contirmo 4-1 (K Makellite) 8 raes

4.20 CLEMATIS HANDICAP (= 21 CASS)

Bettings 13-8 Almunterum, 7-4 Robertion, 4-1 Kintwyn, 12-1 Total Raich, Noble Hagfures, 20-1 Gellic, Victory COME CONCE - KINTEYPE Prominent until no color inside last when 3rd, bit 28, to Field of the ROBLELL TOlds Headway over 3" out, fed 1" out, peopled out to be Zahiri 20, il leasted tentil 554

ARCHARLAGUE PRESONS OFF 3" OUT, use it rout, person out to by 22 and 23 (Lingfield 1m2), Suff.
ALBERHTAREABLE Held up, harponed 21 out, ran ou inside fixed bring when 2 nd, bit 70, to King of Tames
[Lingfield 1m2], Suff.

QUALIC VINCTORY; Lost to 3 out, acon bookes, 60s, bit 171 bits Massium (Lingfield 1m2), Suff.

TOTAL BRICH: Held up, headway 31 out, ridden over 21 and, weakened when 8th, bits 101, to Real Madrid
[Lingfield 1m2], Suff.

Blinkered first time: 1.50 Mister Aspecto.

Results

2.15 (71): 1, KINGDOM PRINCESS, L Charnock (11-2); 2, Myteone Riistake (5-2 iny); 3, Balliwick (9-2, 5 ran. 2%, 2, (a Camacho) Tote: M-95; Er60, 21.70. Dust F £18,60. CSF; £19.18. NFI: Oriel Lad.

2.45 (2m 48): 4, ROUPONTAINIE, J Weaver (6-5 lav); 2, Haya Ya Kafanh (15-2); 3, Salmeston (20-1); 9 rgn, 4, K (W Mach Tota, C.200; 71, 0, 1:90, 23, 60, Dual F-28, 50, Trior 556, 90, CSF: C10,84.

3.15 (1sn 4fb 1, MENITALASANYTHIR, Angela Gallimore (6-1): 2, Beassmoot (4-6 say); 8, Backview (33-1), 7 ran. 8. 2 (A Balley) Toter 59.20; C1.40, C1.70, Deat F; C5.00, CSF: C10.57, Tricast: £116.67, NR-Mats A Note.

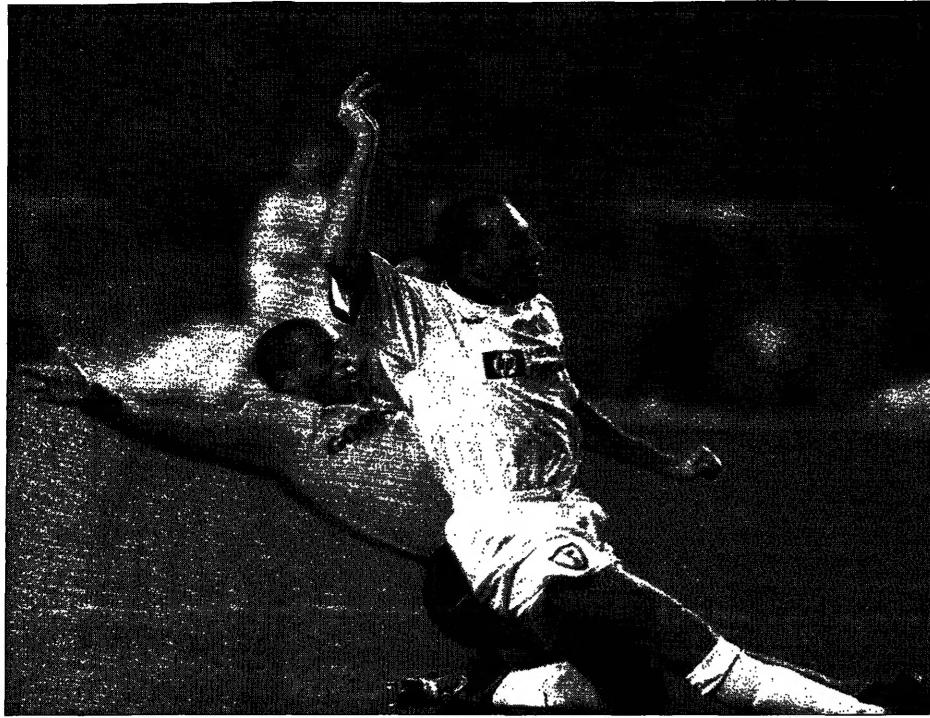
3.45 (1m): 1, SARASI, L Chernock (5-1): 3, Gouden of All Birds; (6-4 jav), 3, Manaber (16-1): 8 ren. 1, 1k (M Carnacho) Tote: 17.50; E1 10, C1 80, E4 40. Dual F £7.40. Trio: 29.20. C5F; £18.3. Tricaet £48.42. NR-Ansal Boy, Little that 4.15 (5f): 1, BOFFY, Iona Wands (10-11 [sv]: 2, Victoria Signa (9-1): 3, General Equation (16-1). 7 ran. 2, 2k. (B Baugh)

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891 - 168 - 168 RISH 120 220 300 GREYHOUNDS 122 221 00

Tote: £1.80; £1.10; R4.20; Dual F: £5.80; GSF £9.51; NR: Marino Street. 4.45 (56): 1; KIRA, R Lappin (3–1): 2, Featherstone Lere (7–2): 3, Tafabbus (10–1): 9–4 fov Primuta Bairn, 7 ran, X, 4, 1)

Eyre) Tota £3 30; £1 10, £3.30, Dual F £6. CSF: £13.19. Tricast £81.82 NR: Boi

FA CUP SOCCER



Fast start . . . Ronny Rosenthal gives Spurs an eighth-minute lead despite Mark Rankine's intended intervention

Fourth-round replay: Wolverhampton Wanderers 0, Tottenham Hotspur 2

Fox too quick for Wolves

David Lacey

eux last night almost before they could raise a growl, let alone find a bite. Tottenham needed barely 10 goal lead, scoring first with a sucker punch and then punishing an elementary defen-

The strength of Wolves' perthe team's improvement and hunted. under Mark McChee, who with Molineux warming it had managed to stifle the self with optimism amid the threat of Sheringham and white wasteland of the West Thompson's strong run into

last night Richards, the mas-OLVES were on their way out of the Cup at Molin-the Cup at Molinclose eye on Armstrong, but the relevance of this was soon

Wolves were now back at Molineux. But if he had hoped to ahead. engage the opposition in an-The strength of Wolves' per-formance in the 1-i draw at White Hand I was a Tottenham's strength on the

Armstrong by using three Midlands, this was looking the Spurs half created space centre-backs. But crucially like one of Spurs' trickier for Goodman, who was tackhurdles. How deceptive apnearances can be. Initially Wolves were con-

tent to lie doggo and let the opposition pick up the pace of the game. However, an early to recede.

Understandably, McGhee
was loth to discard a successful system simply because
Sheringham, offered an ominous warning of what lay just

Wolves offered their supporters one brief glimpse of the old glory. Then the night White Hart Lane had pro-counter-attack swiftly sky fell in on them. In next to vided significant evidence of reversed the roles of hunter no time they were two down and in danger of being

led by Calderwood at the expense of a corner. This Mab-butt cleared to Fox, whose speed caught Wolves on the wrong foot. A straightforward pass to Rosenthal, a simple right-footed prod by the Is-raeli, and Stowell was beaten by a ball through his legs.

long clearance back to his goalkeeper but instead found Sheringham, who gratefully increased Tottenham's lead. Last night's replay, played on a heated pitch and a per-

son tried to head Walker's not troubled by the shot. In fact Walker was not troubled by anything for long periods. Towards half-time Wolves did achieve enough attacking pressure to force a few corners but the quality fect surface, had only gone ahead after the surrounding streets had been passed safe for public access. A pity no-

Only a linesman's flag de-nied Tottenham a third goal after Campbell's prodigious

header bounced back off the bar and Calderwood drove the

rebound into the net Fergu-

son's long crossfield pass to Bull sent the former England striker clear midway through

the first half, but Walker was

Spurs continued to pick Wolves off in counterthrusts that usually involved the pace of Fox or Rosenthal. Shorth before the hour Stowell saved feet-first from Rosenthal and Fox almost immediately lifted a shot over the bar.

PHOTOGRAPH: KIM SCOTT-CLARK

In the 67th minute the timing of Sheringham's through-pass defeated the offside trap and left Fox with only Stowall to beat. The wir chance to control the ball but tried to shoot first time and merely prodded it wide.

Wolverinterpton Wandererst Stowell; Verus, Emblen, Young, Rankins (Daley, Sämin), Atkins, Osborn, Ferguson, Thompson, Goodman, 848. Tethanham Motsport Walker; Austin, Calderwood, Mabbuti, Wilson, Fox, Dozzell, Campbell, Rosenthal, Shering-ham, Armstrong.

Middlesbrough 0, Wimbledon 0

Stinkeroo for Branco

David Hopps

F BRANCO was thirsting for a taste of Brazil on Teesside last night, he would have done better to stay in and watch the Gold Blend advert on television rather than come out to this abysmal fourth-round tie.

The opening gambit to Branco from his Middlesbrough suitor Bryan Robson might have echoed the Gold Blend couple: "I wanted everything to be right — I've got something to ask you."

Branco's answer may not come easily after this, as all hope of any sort of memorable finish disappeared when Juninho's free-kick 12 min-utes from time flew too high and, with a slight limp, he was immediately substituted.

Neither were Wimbledon the opponents to persuade Branco that England is a land of artistry and imagination. the stands with growing per-plexity at a collection of stumbles and misplaced passes. Juninho, back after injury,

would have been doubly anx ious to impress in the presteam-mate, but even he was dragged down by the general mediocrity. When the slight Brazilian did pull off a sprightly tackle on Cunning ham to launch a rare attack. Pollock barged straight into a If Wimbledon did have an

obvious weakness it was their goalkeeper Sullivan, who dropped Barmby's straight-forward left-wing cross and in his anxiety to clear, just might (if you were wearing a red and white scarf) have col-lided with Cox. Mr Dilkes,

scarfless, was unmoved.
Wimbledon were under strength, working hard, closing down, looking ugly -and having helped create the of artistry and imagination. rubbish heap, began to scour He must have watched from it for their own advantage.

Harford, fulfilling a central midfield role that at his advanced age he could never have envisaged, caused Walsh to push over a 30-yard drive. Holdsworth then headed wide during a spate of Wimbledon corners while all Boro man-aged by half-time was the

booking of Vickers.
Morris pulled his shot weakly across goal when pre-sented with a chance to put everyone out of their misery after an hour, to the growing impatience of a Riverside Stadium faithful that had en-dured seven Boro defeats in their last eight league games. O'Halloran's pass then allowed Morris to whip in a cross by another Old Traf-low cross but Barmby, diving in with desperation, was un-strachen.

able to connect.

Medicabroughs Waleh. Cox. Pearson.
Vickers. Whelen. Morris. O'Halloran.
Poliock. Barmby. Juninho (Freestone.
Pomini. Wildingen.

Coventry City 2, Manchester City 2

Dublin has the final word

ION DUBLIN's injurytime equaliser stopped Manchester City's celebrations when it looked as though they were on their way to a fifth-round local derby at Old Trafford

Gary Flitcroft's goal eight minutes from the end, his first of the season, seemed to be enough to en-sure victory. But Coven-try's former Manchester United striker Dublin levelled at the death, after a run into the area and low

It had been the best of starts for Coventry after their superhuman attempts to get the tie on. A small army of volunteers who cleared a carpet of four inches of snow off the pitch was rewarded after only 2min 8sec when Noel Whell the goalkeeper Eike Immellan calmly tucked away the with a rising shot. first chance of the game. But Coventry's luckless

centre-back David Busst put through his own goal in Ball's side were back in the

It was Whelan's sixth goal in his 10th game since Ron Atkinson paid a club-record £2 million to prise him out of Elland Road, much against Howard Wil-kinson's wishes.

The prize at the end of this fourth-round match is great. A 45 per cent share of the gate at Old Trafford in the fifth round, plus televi-sion receipts, will pour £400,000 into the coffers of the visiting club. Whelan set Coventry

slight when Richard Shaw's shot was deflected by a visiting defender. The 22-year-old, with an aplomb beyond his years, coolly took the ball off and beat

But far from pushing for-ward to increase their lead, Coventry found themselves conceding the middle

Dwe Rösler was a particular threat and it was from his dangerous cross that the equaliser arrived in the

As the cross reached the goal-line, Coventry's goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic and Busst tangled and the ball hit the net from the centre-back's desperate lunge. It was his third own-goal of the season.

Both teams went close be-fore half-time. Nigel Clough volleyed inches over from Rösler's centre and at the other end Paul Telfer saw his header do likewise. IIIS Hextger to linewise.

Covereby City Ogizzvic Borrows, Hall,
Shaw. Busst, Richardson, Telfar,
Strachan, Dublin, Whelen, Salako,
Banchaster Citys Immel; Lomas, Curle,
Kinkladza, Füszoft, Brightwell, Symons,
Summustbee, Brown, Clough, Påster.

(Costa Rica) 4.05.82; 3. S Collings (GB 4,15.40, 50ms breasstatroles 1, H Decreta (Aus) 31.13, 250ms breasstatroles 1, L La custa (Rom) 2.28.67, 80ms betterftps 1, C Vanni (II) 27.84, 200ms betterftps 1, Fhomas (Aura) 2.11,18, 1.00m back-stroles 1, L Vigarani (II) 1.02.39, 100ms back-stroles 1, III 1.02.39, 100ms bac

Fixtures

Soccer

FA TROPHY: First-round, third replay: Sudbury In v Trowbridge In. PONTING LEAGUE Second Division, Middlesbrough v Sunderland (7.0). Third Divisions: Stockport v Strewbury (8.46). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION, First Divisions Charles v Wimbledon (2.0): West Ham v Norwich (2.0). Rugby League ALLIANCE CUP: First round Cas

Southampton 1, Crewe Alexandra 1

Le Tissier top drawer

Jeremy Alexander

GOAL from Le Tis-sier's top drawer spared Southampton's blushes last night. The Premiership side had trailed Crewe for an hour when he stopped the helter-skelter, looked up and, from 20 yards out, chipped to Carle's toplet corner it was Gayle's top-left corner. It was his first goal from any drawer for three months. His manager, Dave Mer-rington, said beforehand that

"you get only one bite of the cherry in the Cup". He was relieved to get a second, particularly after going out to Reading in the Coca-Cola Cup, and grateful to the ground staff to get the first. sweeping the south coast, did not make it to The Dell. Crewe were the next best thing, opening with mesmeric movement, swirling and dancing and catching South-

ampton in early confusion. Dario Gradi, true to his prin-

ciples, was not going to kick-and-rush or pack defence in hone of a replay. After four minutes Whalley advanced up the left, ex-changed passes with Rivers and crossed. The unmarked Edwards went up at the near post and the ball sailed on past Beasant into the far cor-ner. The public address took scorer and then went for Rivers. It was not helped by whom to congratulate, they trotted back like gentlemen of

the last century, possibly

way to their second semifinal, after 100 years in which they never reached the fifth round until five seasons ago. Southampton responded by overwhelming Crewe in mid-

field and wasting a flood of clear-cut chances. The sides had met only once before, in 1968, when Mick Channon scored the first of his dozen When Gayle lost a corner, Shipperley headed loopingly for goal and the captain Len-

non headed out from under the bar. It was looking like ampton, the more so when Walters met a cross to the far post by heading wide from five yards. But it was not all Southampton, and on the halfhour a Whalley volley from 3 yards brought the best save of the half from Beasant. The crazy misses continued

after the interval: Watson, Walters and Shipperley at one Gayle tipping away Watson's overhead and Beasant backpedalling desperately to keep out Edwards's alert lob. Then came Le Tissier's magic. After that Watson's flying header was matched by the goalkeeper's flying save and Lennon cleared off the line from Hall But Crewe, Gradi and Gayle deserved their second bite at Gresty Road or Tuesday.

West Ham United 1, Grimsby Town 1

Thirteen proves lucky for Grimsby

Mark Reddien

be lucky for Grimsby as 13th in the First Division to a fortunate draw in East London last night. The sides must replay at Dundell Park on Valentine's Day for the duin-form Chelses in the fifth

but the outlook remained dis-tinctly watery as the former alarming burst of speed for a tinctly watery as the former scuppered Southend in the bottom corner.

previous round Finding the back of the Mariners' net was arguably a more challenging proposition, however. For despite being midtable in the First being midtable in the First Association. Division, Grimsby are only two points off a play-off place

two points off a play-off place and looking buoyant.

Notwithstanding their League of Nations tag. West Ham had a familiar look—though Whitbread was making his first full appearance of the season as centre-half—Potts moving to right-back, Dumitrescu is still waiting for a work permit and Bilic and Dani were ineligible.

off in the 37th minute, Dowie climbing at the back of the area to head home Williamson's right-wing cross for the equaliser.

Weet Ham United Miklosko; Whitbread, Potts, Rieper, Bicks, Williamson, Faher, Laws, Dowie.

Ooste, Ooste, Ooste, Ooste, Chitos, Shakespeare, Woode (Lawingstone, Edmin), Forrester, Bonetti (Southall, 81).

Reference G Willard (Worthing).

pleasingly with intelligent short-passing football but neithe 17th minute when West Ham surely should have had

a penalty.

Slater burst on to Dowie's flicked pass, only to be clattered in the area by the leftback Laws. The ref

The player-manager the took a more constructive role Upton Park may have es at the other end. A quick onecaped the wintry ravages af two with Forrester in the 25th fecting the rest of the country, minute saw Laws bearing Thames Ironworks took on 34-year-old, he burst through yet another East Coast club in the Cup, having comfortably across Miklosko and into the

West Ham lifted their game

home side's persistence paid off in the 37th minute, Dowie

Nottingham Forest 1, Oxford United 1

Massey's late goal makes Forest pay for their misses

John Lawson

DRAMATIC 88th-minute goal by Stuart Massey meant more Premiership em-barrassment in the FA Cup last night as Oxford earned a replay at the Manor Ground. A home tle with Tottenham saves to deny Woan (twice) awaits the winners. The extent of Oxford's am-

bitton on the night was clear from the outset with five play-ers strung across the middle. Yet Forest made hard work of illustrating their status, even if they had enough first-chances to lead comfortably. Oxford were first threat-ened after 15 minutes, Roy volleying just wide. Then For-

est's other import, Silenzi, tested Whitehead with a fierce, angled drive. As the temperature rose for Oxford's overworked defence, Bart-Williams sent a searing

lenzi opened up the defence. The Forest half was largely foreign territory for Oxford but in the 28th minute a slip by Chettle ought to have led to a breakthrough. Moody bore down on goal, but failed to spot the unmarked Allen and a rare chance was gone. It was enough to ignite For-

frenzy and within 60 seconds Silenzi had grazed the post from Woan's cross. Then Campbell wastefully fired a right-foot shot over after Silenzi's presence had again unsettled the visitors.

and Phillips from long-range before the break. But Oxford had the last say of the half with Massey spurning an open goal opportunity after a tame punch by Crossley. Forest's relentless pressure was eventually rewarded

after 53 minutes as Oxford were caught out by the kind of break they were hoping to release on Frank Clark's side. Roy brought the ball out of defence and when he arrowed a pass to Campbell, Wood and Elliott collided to leave the striker a clear run. A surging 30-yard break and an emshot against the inside of a phatic right-foot finish pro-post from 25 yards after Si- vided punishment.

Six minutes later, Phillips lofted ball was headed on by Woan. Silenzi went for power instead of precision, his effort thumping against the bar.

Results

Soccer FA CUP Fourth round

INTERDOOP

28,915 Campt 15.050

Fourth-round replay

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Vindas 14

VOIS LEAGUIR: First: Postposeeds Abingdon Tn v Tooting & Mincham Und.

SEACER MOURES LEAGUES Seathers

Divisione: Postposeds Forest Green Ryrs

V Newport (10V).PONTINS LEAGUES

First Divisione: Postposeds Weel Brom v
Loca. Second Divisions Weels Brom v
Loca. Second Divisions buildensied 4,

Burnley O. Postposeds Barnstey v Preston; Rotherham v York, Taird Divisions

Postposeds Luncoln v Doncasur.

Burnley D. Postpomed: Barnsley v Pres-ton; Rothertam v York. Third Division: Postpomed: Lincoln v Doncastor. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Pirsts Brighton 2 Immunity. Pirsts Brighton 3, Ipswich 1; Crystal Pal-ace 1, Oxford Ltd 1, Patends Brists C v Luton: Charlton v Wimbledon, Seconds Boumemouth 4, Torquay 1, Patends Bath v Plymouth Langues Cope Patends Bir-mingham v Ewanses. SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE Colchester Ltd 1, Capitales LEAGUE OF WALES: Britan Ferry 1 Tales Cardin : U-21 REPRESENTATIVE CHALLENGE: FAI Nat Ligo Sol O Tollenham 1

maita 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: De Grazischap Doesin-chem I. Forama Staard I: RKG Wazawijk 1, Twente Erschede 0. NEC Nijmegen 2, Sparka Rotierdam 2.

Rugby Union Rugby League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Round four Postponed: Workington v Widnes (now Feb 11, 10). Tennis

LTA WOMENPS SATELLITE (Sunder-land): Second round: N Egorova (Rus) M C Downne (Fr) 7-6. 6-3, J Pullie (GB) M A Tecsor (Rom) 6-1. 6-2. A Kathoulis (Gr) M M Kucerova (Ger) 1-6. 8-4. 6-1: 8 A Sid-dull (GB) M M Beadman (Aus) 7-5. 6-2. A Linkeva (Rus) M G Am (Ger) 1-6. 8-3. 6-2. R Sandte (Rom) M J Wood (GB) 6-3. 6-7. 7-5; 3 Santhi (GB) M J Ward (GB) 2-6. 6-3. 6-2. C Taylor (GB) M Marsim (Rus) 6-2. 6-1. 6-3 6-2 G Taylor (So) is manufactured by a first round (St unless stated): R Watherson by D Superior 7-6, 6-1 S Manuphries (US) by N Vical 6-3 6-1; C Becember by P Manufactured (Ca) 6-3 6-1; C Becember by P Manufactured (Swe) by N Aeris (Br) 6-3, 7-6 J Alven (Swe) by N Aeris (Br) 6-3,

6-3; I Caudi (it) bt R Wassen (Neth) 6-2, 7-5; III Rezah (Ven) bt R Koenig (SA) 6-3, 4-6 6-3; C Hasgard (SA) bt F Costa (Br) 6-4, 6-7; N Gossid bt M Staciling (Swe) 6-2, 6-4; A Richardson bt J Kodes (C2) 4-6, 6-7, 6-4; S Grosen (Neth) bt G Galimbert (1) 7-5, 6-4; Pleasherger (Switz) bt L Milligen 6-2, 7-5; D Praper bt C Sels (Sr) 3-5, 6-4, 5-4; J Balgado v V Nagy (Mun) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; O Stemptytchov (Bul) bt J-C Rics (P Ricc) 7-5, 6-1.

Basketball

Cycling

EXPROPEAN CHARBY-CHSSHIP: Group As Olympialous 63, Irabils Salonita 63. Group in Pau-Orthez 62. Bercalona 70. HEMA: San Antonio 103, Chartotte 102. Cleveland 91. Boston 73: Ortando 112. Bacramento 102; Phoenix 105, Chicago 96; Milwitutise 114, Dallas 111; LA Lakers 99, Domver 78; Seattle 99, Houston 94. Cricket WORLD CUP WARM-UP: Beenbark Ka-nya's 242-5. Netherlands 178-6. Kenya won by 64 nurs. SHEFFELLD SHIELD: Brisbarus Queens-

land 150. New South Water 151-9 (Taze-laar 5-37). Hoberts Tasmania 258-8 (M Atkinson 59: Wilson 4-50) v South

Capiot (Berl); 4. T Hotman (Nath); 5. S De-jongh (Neth); 6. H Redant (Bel); 7. M Torni (It); 8. M Aeris (Bel); 8. M Parry (Bel; 10. S Previtali (It) all same time. Overali: 1, Svorada Shr 13min. Base; 2. Nationen at Isac; 3. Capiot; 7. 4. Dejongh E. S. C Ca-pelle (Fr) 9; 6. F Moncasain (Fr) 10; 7. F Blevin (Fr); 6. Hotman 11; 9. Redant; 10. Tomi all 81.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING: Group & Denmark 2, Great British 3.
RML: Detroit 4, Florida 2; NY Rangers 4.
NY Islanders 2; Pitsburgh 8, Boston 6;
Dallas 5, ST Louis 2; Calgary 3, Ottowa 1;
Chicago 6, Los Angeles 2.

BENSON AND HEDGES MASTERS (Wembley): Second round: A McMarcs (Scorl bt M Stavens (Wales) 6-5. Swimming WORLD CUP MEET (Imperia, It): More 50m freestyles 1, M Potter (GB) 21.7/lisec. 200m freestyles 7, C Trooger (Ger) 1.46.91. 300m freestyles 1, C Trooger (Ger) 1.46.91. 300m freestyles 1, C Houman (Aus) 7.51.53. 100m breamstrokes 1, P Rogers (Aus) B.B.Z. 100m breamstrokes 1, P Rogers (Ger) 53.91. 50m backstrokes 1, 6 Theloke (Ger) 25.53. 200m backstrokes 1, E Morts (III) 1.54.45. 200m backstrokes 1. E Morts (III) 1.54.45. 200m backstrokes 1.5 More 1.59.91. M Maltinsky (Pol) 1.59.93.

Wornder 100m freestyles 1, K Melssner (Ger) 55 07soc. 400m freestyles 1, C Poll

ice Hockey BRITISH LEAGUE: Division One: Man

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Soccer

Keegan denies split

lan Ress

EVIN KEEGAN poured oil on seemingly turbulent waters yesterday by insisting that he and the Newcastle board had not differed on the question of Faustino Asprille Faustino Asprilla.

With Asprilla's transfer from Parma now all but sealed, Keegan felt suffi-ciently confident to discuss publicly the Colombian international's attributes. Indeed he said of the striker: "We are not going to find anyone as good as him, or so right for

Keegan dismissed the suggestion that certain influen-tial directors had attempted to scupper a deal which has hung in the balance on count-less occasions since first mooted last month

I don't want anyone to think I have stuck out against other people's wishes," he said. "They [the board] knew I wanted him and I never wavered from that even when there were problems."
Keegan believes he has

lured to England a player of impeccable pedigree. 'It's just my opinion but I would rate him among the top five in the world," he said. "The crowd will love him. He's a match-winner, a goalscorer and an entertainer. He is the sort of footballer that Geordies love.

It all depends on how he adjusts to English football, of course, but he sounds very ex-cited and he wants to play

"A lot of rubbish has been written about the lad, much of which I found to be in bad taste. If I had signed players on the basis of what I heard about them, David Ginola and Andy Cole would not have come to this club and the fans would have missed some great players.

Liverpool are the latest club to express interest in the new prodigy of Swedish football, Conny Mannsson. The 16year-old youth international goalkeeper may be invited to a trial at Anfield.

Marc Hottiger is expected to make his debut for Everton in Saturday's home game with Manchester City, three weeks after completing his £700,000 move from Newcastle. The Swiss international full-back is expected to receive his

work permit today. urrected their interest in fielder Vinny Samways, two weeks after a £1.3 million deal over personal terms.

Another midfielder, Sheffield Wednesday's John Sheridan, is stalling over a month's loan to Birmingham with a began a year later they sat view to a permanent £600,000 move. Birmingham want him to join in time to play in the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at St Andrews on Sunday. But Sheridan said: I'll make a decision later and do what's right for me."

new contract which will keep him at Goodison Park for the



recruited Kevin Cullis, who has never played for or managed a League team, as the troubled Welsh club's fourth

Town's youth team.

The team manager Hugh contract rewards he enjoys at the moment anywhere other

Leading men . . . the captain Chris Gray (left) with Roger Whittaker, John Drapkin and Nottingham's chairman Alan Bragg

MPOVERISHED but | Moore, Dusty Hare and Chris | richer League Two clubs such | Our little hospitality suites in talented rugby union | Oti all won caps while playing | as Northampton and Newcas | Portakabins are not really go-

for Nottingham but the club's

current stalwarts Gary Rees

and Simon Hodgkinson and

the Scottish-born captain

Chris Gray have not repre-sented their countries since

The club fell into major fi-nancial difficulties, lost an

important sponsorship and

half its gate and by the end of

the 1993-94 season were in

Without the advent of pro-

fessionalism Nottingham

probably could have ridden

the storm with £4,000 of finan-cial help from the Rugby

Football Union. But now this

loan is about as effective as a

sticking plaster on a broken

limb. Rugby's new world de-

mands payment for players and coaches, top-level facili-ties for spectators, marketing

and administrative staff, and

Without him the club lost mo-mentum. Rob Andrew, Brian Already struggling against

YOU ARE PLAYING AGAINS!

NOTTINGHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

the beginning of the decade.

Richmond this week found a wealthy backer to help their drive towards League Two, but other English clubs

are struggling in the new professional era. Jill Turner visits Nottingham, who have advertised their plight

tle Gosforth, Nottingham

have called in a firm of mar-

keting consultants run by Bob Britten, a former Not-

tingham Forest soccer player

and commercial manager at

Southampton FC, and placed

the ad for a fairy godmother.
'It would have taken time,"

said Drapkin, "but we could have dug ourselves out. Now

the situation has changed. Six

trouble to the tune of nearly | months or so ago we would be | best players, the best coaches £50,000. | booking for maybe £50,000 by | will focus on the places that

looking for maybe \$50,000 by way of a cash injection. Today you can add a nought to that

players, which we are still try-ing to work out, but all the

things that come with that. We want to be part of the profes-sional circuit and you cannot

have a professional or semi-

professional organisation run

on an amateur basis. Club staff and administrators have to be

"It's not only payment for

Beeston boys feel the pinch

than Wigan." The exodus of talent from Leeds is set to continue, with their former All Black centre Craig Innes leaving for the Sydney club Manly-Warrin-gah even though he has two

years of his contract to run at Headingley. Leeds. who lost their hooker James Lowes to Bradford Bulls last week and put their Kiwi forward Gary Mercer up for sale on Tuesday, are resigned to seeing Innes go, now that they have obtained his undertaking to stay for the remainder of Robinson said he was not in their Challenge Cup cam-

Sydney, and arbitration channels between the two bodies simply do not exist. Innes could soon find him-self up against a former Leeds loose forward in Ellery Hanley, who has signed as a player and development

known as the Balmain Tigers.

Doncaster Dragons, who
"guested" in the last Second | each.

nancial collapse of the previin the first summer season with a view to becoming full

former Great Britain captain under which Super League and coach played for the club members would have four

League One games starting on Saturday week, but next

League One club.

the referee will only blow his whistle for half-time or to end the game when the ball has run dead. If the ball becomes dead as the result of a try the referee will allow the conversion kick to be taken. If the hall

scenario for us is relegation again. A lot of the Third Div ision clubs are very hungry and we could even find it hard to stay with them. It's all

should enable us to retain the players we have and hope-fully fill a few gaps. But we will have to relinquish control -- either to a benefactor or a syndicate or by following Saracens and becoming a public limited company. "We don't want to lose con-

Gray, a 35-year-old lock, is all too aware of the troubles

We have been fighting

against money and it is a diffi-cult one to win," said the club

captain. "It's tough on play-ers' loyalty when they can see another club providing great training facilities, better

mileage costs, good kit and the rest. You build a team on the field but all these things help, they help a lot." Drapkin mused: "The worst

trol over the club but that's the way it has to be. When a club like Rugby, at the core of the sport's history, was forced into liquidation you realise how very serious the situation can be."

It is ironic that the club's

mascot is a local hero, Robin Hood, the man who robbed the rich to give to the poor. Nottingham could do with

Snooker

Marathon man McManus is first to tape

Clive Everton

PONNIE O'SULLIVAN Preached his quarter-final destination at the expense of Nigel Bond in only 1hr 54min. Alan McManus was becalmed for 4hr 38min yesterday before he too reached the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Masters at the Wembley Conference Centre with a

McManus, sixth in the world rankings, has reached two semi-finals this season but is suffering a crisis of confidence. The green-to-black clear

ance with which be took the opening frame on the black remained his highest break until he was 4-I down, making all sorts of mistakes with his mind apparently in a fog. There was some improve

ment — and a 36 break — as he reduced that to 2-4 and be opened the seventh promisingly with 51.

Stevens, an 18-year-old Welshman, nevertheless had a chance to lead 5-2 but easing off during last weekfailed to complete the necessary clearance with the last few balls at his mercy. McManus comfortably levelled at 4-4 but bungled a safety on the yellow in the SCOTLAND: R Shepberd (Melrose); ninth only to be presented with a 5-4 lead when Stevens failed at the slightly

awkward decisive black. Stevens won the 10th by a distance but McManus went into the lead with 37 in the decider and held on to earn a quarter-final

Rugby Union

RFU takes watch out of referee's hand

Robert Armstrong

WICKENHAM has decided to emulate professional rugby league by enlisting timekeepers and klaxons in the cause of fair play and spectator-friendly rugby. But the Bath secretary John Quin warned last night that the Rugby Foot-ball Union's plan to in-crease playing time could be undermined by practical

jokers who bring their own klaxons into the ground. Initially timekeepers will be used only at Courage

season they may become standard throughout the national leagues. The ex-periment will be reviewed by the RFU referee subcommittee at the end of this season, when data relating to injury time, time-wast-ing and slow goalkicking will be considered.

The job of timekeeper will be carried out by an RFU assessor, allowing the referee to concentrate on the running of the game. A stop-watch and klaxon have been delivered to each

However, Quin believes a more distinctive-sounding klaxon may be needed. "The klaxon used at rugby league clubs is harder to imitate and to acquire than the one the RFU have sent us, which is a simple affair powered by a gas cylinder," he said. "I'm in favour of timekeeping in principle but there could be a prob-lem making it work."

After the klaxon sounds,

mark, free-kick or penalty kick the referee will allow play to continue until the ball next becomes dead

When the game stops because of injury the watch will be stopped. It will also be stopped 40 seconds after a player has indicated his intention to kick at goal and restarted when the player kicks the ball.

Timekeepers will also keep the actual running time of the game, using a second timepiece.

Bath intend to hold their historic rugby union fix-ture against Wigan at Car-diff Arms Park on May 25 after being told they may not play the game at Twick-enham. The Welsh Rugby Union, keen to generate extra revenue from the national stadium. Is ex-pected to give the two English clubs the go-ahead by the end of this week. Tony Hallett, the RFU's

secretary, rejected Bath's request because plans are in hand to re-seed the Twickenham pitch late in May. He is also concerned about the unseasonal disturbance a high-profile match would cause to local residents in the early summer. "We already have an extra match at Twickenham in April, when Leices-ter are due to play a world

XV," he said. Bath will not give up on Twickenbam until the RFU's executive committee has made a formal decision on the matter, though their supporters might in any case prefer the shorter. cheaper journey to Cardiff. Wigan, who have provi-sionally arranged to hold against Bath at Maine Road on May 8, are happy to play the union fixture at any suitable ground in the south except Wembley, ready have the opportunity

"The RFU would face disci-

plinary measures, all the more so because it gave an

undertaking to abide by all

the resolutions made by the Board," said Pugh. "Just be-cause the IB has lacked teeth

in the past does not mean it

will do so in the future. The

whole point of the last meet-

ing was not just to redraft the

rules and regulations of the

board but to build an appara-

tus which would ensure that

be encouraging them by say-

Wales to become successful at

international level again, As

a union we will do all we can

to ensure our clubs hold on to

day to try to persuade them to

Welsh threat very hard to take. "The First Division will get the lion's share of sponsorship but we are hopping some will but we are hopping some will be the down to any space."

David Plummer

ALES will press for disciplinary action against England by the International Board unless the Rugby Football Union abides by the contentious new rule which stipulates that any player moving between unions must serve a 180-day residential qualification period.

The measure was endorsed

at the IB meeting in London they were observed by all.
"The RFU has consistently last month. But the RFU besaid it is worried about the influx of players across its borders, but it now appears to lieves European Union law would prevent any European union from implementing the rule and has threatened to ignore it. ing the 180-day rule is con-Vernon Pugh, chairman of trary to European law. That

the Welsh Rugby Union and is a matter of opinion, one of the IB, has warned that if which I do not share." the RFU does not comply it will face disciplinary action from the Board, which can strong club structure in impose a wide range of pun-ishments, including a fine,

ishments, including a line, suspension or even expulsion. This week the RFU gave permission for Nick Popplewell, the Irish international prop, to play for Newcastle Gosforth in the Pilkingtheir leading players — not that some of the contracts of fered by English teams are all they are cracked up to be." The IB regulation applies to players under contract to a ton Cup this Saturday even though he has been living in Dublin this season. The RFU club or union, and the WRU met its squad players yesterargued that Popplewell's previous registration with Wasps sign contracts they have been made his nationality irrelevant to a move between considering for more than a month. Sticking points in-

The IB has set up a disciplinary committee of five to hear any complaints made by unions or associations about one another's behaviour, and Pugh said the WRU would not hesitate to invoke a disciplinary hearing if a Wales squad player signed for an English club and was not required to serve the 180-day residential

clude promotional rights and endorsements. Robert Howley has rejected a move to England with Saracens and will stay with Bridg-end until the end of next season. The WRU, Howley's employer Ogwr borough council, and Bridgend have

put together a package

Welsh rugby.

No changes for Scotland

SCOTLAND, haifway to a Grand Slam, have announced an unchanged side for the Five Nations Championship match against Wales in Cardiff on Saturday week, Their manager Jim Telfer, who criticised his team for end's win over France at Murrayfield, said: "We are treating the game in Cardiff as a semi-final, Everyone hates to lose in a semi-final."

SCOTLAND: R Shapbard (Meirose); C Joiner (Meirose); S Mastings (Walsonians), I Jardine (Stiring Co), M Dods (Northampton), & Tournsend (Northampton), & Redgath (Meirose), D Hiller (Boroughmuir), & Campbell (Dunder HSFP), D Weir (Meirose), R Walsonsight (West Hartispool, cart), & Peters (Bath), I Sandh (Sloucester), Ragiscoansants: K Logan (Stiring Co), C Chairmer (Meirose), & Araschone (Newcastle), S Misersey (Edinburgh Acad), P Berrnoll (London Scottish), J May (Hawick)

Snowline 24hr skiing information

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Rugby League

Russell Thomas

SWANSEA's new chairman Michael Thompson has manager this season. Cullis, 37, is virtually un-

known outside non-League soccer, but his career has been followed by Thompson. the Birmingham businessman who took over Swansea 12 days ago.

The new manager played extensively in the Midlands before taking Gornal Sports to the West Midlands League championship. Since 1993 he has been in charge of Cradley Cullis insists that the step

up holds no fears for him. Somebody has to steer the ship and I feel I am quite capable of doing that. If I wasn't. I feel sure the chairman would not have appointed me."

Newcastle eye Offiah

club needs million-

aire." It sounds like a

oke but Nottingham RFC are

not laughing.
Richmond may have found

their wealthy backer this

week but Nottingham, a cash-

strapped club, are worried. So worried that they placed the

above advertisement in a

really do," said their presi-dent John Drapkin, shaking his head over the club ac-

counts. "We just don't know

what is going to happen, which is a tragedy for a won-

A decade ago Nottingham

ton Cup tie at Beeston on Sat-

urday — were one of Eng-land's foremost clubs. In the

1985-86 season they were second only to Gloucester in the John Smith's Merit Table.

above the likes of Bath,

Leicester and Harlequins. When the Courage league

proudly in the First Division until slipping to relegation by

the end of the 1991-92 season.

This was largely a result of losing their charismatic

coach Alan Davies to the Welsh national squad and, be-cause they believed his move

was temporary, failing to pro-vide a secure replacement.

"We need a millionaire, we

national newspaper.

derful club like ours."

John Huxley

IVE rugby union clubs including Sir John Hall's Newcastle have made approaches to lure Martin Offiah back to the code he played at Rosslyn

In announcing the clubs' interest in the 29-year-old Great Britain and Wigan winger, who finished joint leading ry-scorer in the Centenary Championship, his agent Alan McColm said yesterday: "I have discussed [with Wigan] the idea of Martin playing a short-term contract in rugby union [but] we have not talked to them about any

specific offer. The Wigan chairman Jack proposals we may put."

McColm added: "Martin is i not considering a career change and I don't believe he could earn the same kind of

favour of Martin playing paign; they face Warrington union but would listen to any in the fifth round on Saturday.

McGahan's insistence that Leeds should have compensation from Manly because of that contract rings hollow, as Manly are an Australian Rugby League club. Leeds are now part of Rupert Murdoch's Super League, whose parent body has just had a lengthy court battle with the ARL in

coach with the Sydney Tigers for the 1996 ARL season which starts on March 1. The



Portakabins are not really go-

Under the eaves of the small and elderly railway-

side clubhouse at Ireland Av

enue, decorated with shirts

from around the world and photographs of past players performing in international arenas, the talk is of the

future and what it might be

'We don't know

what is going to

The director of rugby, Roger Whittaker, said: "The

happen...atragedy

for a wonderful club'

have the money to buy them and it is this that will form

the structure of the game in

the future. Look at soccer: who would have said five

years ago that Blackburn

Rovers would become one of

the biggest clubs in the

country?
"Now we are in a ball game

in rugby where it is backing and finance that will bring a

club to the fore, and Newcas-

paid, and to attract investors club to the fore, and Newcas-we have to offer better facili-ties than we have at present. example."

ing to make the grade."

Sport in brief

Hockey

n diffusel

Southgate have been allocated £626,000 by the National Lottery Sports Fund, the largest award yet to a hockey club, writes Pot Rowley.

The grant will go towards a £980,000 joint project by Southgate and Middlesex University to lay two artificial and three turf pitches and provide a new pavilion on the university's campus at Trent Park. The new facility. planned for mid-1997, will be for the use of the club, university and local community.

figure sum from the Lottery.

Severiano Ballesteros and Jose-Maria Olazabal, whose fitness problems have kept them out of competition since September, are due to play in next month's Dubai Desert Classic, where the American Ryder Cup player Fred Cou-ples will defend his title against all of Europe's winning team bar Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer.

The PGA Seniors championship is to be sponsored for the next 10 years by The Belfry, venue of the last three

August 22-25 will have a happy man afterwards." £150,000 prize-fund.

Mark Foster won a Fiat car after setting the fifth-fastest 50 metre freestyle time in his-tory at the World Cup meet at Imperia. Italy yesterday. Britain's Commonwealth champion beat the Olympic champion Alexander Popov in 21.70sec, only 0.02 outside the Russian's two-year-old world record.
The City of Cardiff 25-year-

old, who had already won the meet's 50m butterfly event,

said: "It's nice to win the car at Phoenix early yesterday,

team rugby. Baskethall The Chicago Bulls lost two NBA games in a row for the first time in almost a year

when they were beaten 106-96

psychologist Jack Lamport-Mitchell in an effort to regain

the form that won him an

England World Cup squad

place. The 6ft 9in forward is

currently playing second-

Wakefield, to receive a six- | ain. This season's event on | beaten Popov. He wasn't a | second-quarter lead. Michael Jordan scored 28 points but that was topped by the Suns' Rugby Union Charles Barkley with 35 points and two key steals in Gloucester's lock Richard West has turned to the sports the final minute.

> helped Los Angeles win 99-78 at the Denver Nuggets, the Lakers' 10th win in 12 games and their third in four since the superstar's return. Olympic Games

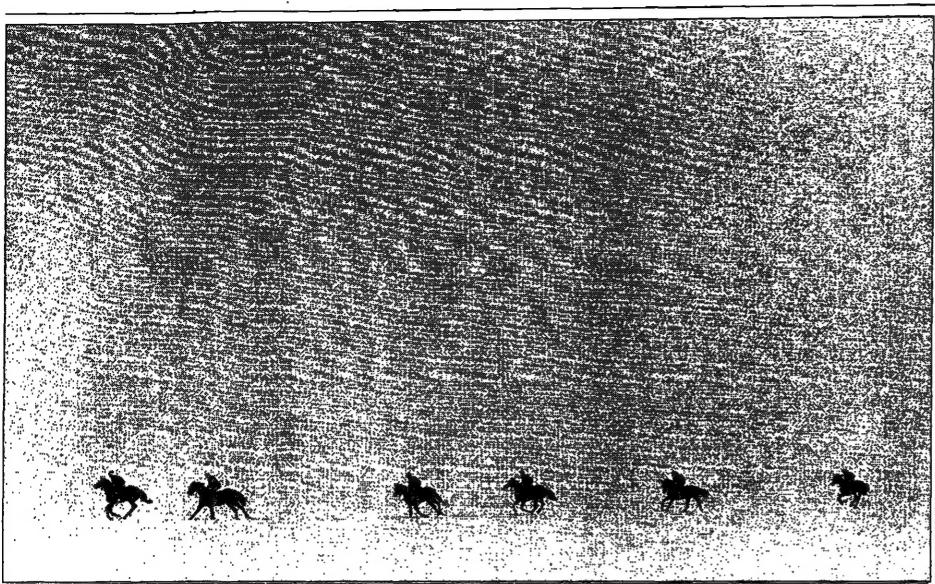
Magic Johnson's 16 points

Five sporting-goods compa-

nies are being taken to US federal court for allegedly selling merchandise that illegally bears official Olympic hockey cuo, and Deeside My. Venue of the last throwing a last repetitive plant of the last throwing away a 16-point counterfeit olympic goods. | against Steve Davis.

Cup soccer defies the weather, page 14 Rugby calls time on the referee, page 15

Sports Guardian



Euro hope for 10 English clubs

The eight clubs would be

Uefa's other big plan is for

the top eight countries in the

rankings to be given two places in the Cup Winners'

Cup as well. This competition

Martin Thorpe in Geneva on Uefa's revolutionary plans which could see a bumper crop of clubs competing abroad next season

clubs present — including nounced revolutionary proposals which could see 10 mow be fine-tuned by Uefa's competitions committee ready fication places and possibly for an announcement of the plan troes and 15 for an announcement of the county of the plan troes and until fine trees and possibly three in a preliminary round the plan troes and until fine trees and possibly three in a preliminary round the plan troes and until fine trees and possibly three in a preliminary round the plan troes and until fine trees and the plan troes are the plan troes and the plan troes and the plan troes and the plan troes are the plan troes and the plan troes and the plan troes are the pl

Winners Cup.
The far-reaching changes are designed to give Europe's top clubs more money-making ties in order to head off any thoughts of those clubs breaking away to set up their own lucrative competitions.

and will be pushing to have the changes in place for next sea-son," said the United director Maurice Watkins. And Usfa's president Lennart Johansson did not rule that out; "We want to do it as soon as possible."

On top of the main propos-als, Uefa is also suggesting that Uefa revealed the changes to clubs from Europe's top 12 liminary round of the European rankings, incountries at a summit here yesterday. The ideas were broadly welcomed by the 33 which is being expanded to 119 would comprise one each from the top eight countries in the European rankings, including England but not Scotland, who are not in the top eight.

chosen on merit, based on their current league positions and their league records over the previous 10 or the previous five years, a factor yet to be decided. If Newcastle win the title this season, for instance, the extra place would be likely to go to Man-chester United on their record over the past five years, but possibly to Liverpool if 1997-98. Under the plan, two English clubs would automatically compete in the Euro"We welcome this totally land would have one extra judged over the past five legs on July 24 and 31. Scotbut possibly to Liverp land would have one extra judged over the past 10. The eight would join the Uefa Cup place but nothing preliminary round of the European Cup, fighting for a place in the 16-team Champi-

more under these proposals. Uefa's main plan on the European Cup proposes that the current 24 national league champions in this most lucrative of competitions be joined by eight other clubs. These would comprise one each

cup as well. This competition would comprise the national cup winners plus another team, most likely chosen on their recent past record in that domestic cup and in Europe. On those criteria, Arsenal would join the FA cup winners in the cup winners of the plans come in ners' Cup if the plans came in "I gained the definite impression that there is a good chance of these proposals go-ing through," the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly said

England expects

Champions Cup Pramiership winners plus over either tive or 10 years. Manchester United or

Cup-Wintners Cup

FA Gup-virthers pice thus
pulp-listing-recent in

merit, not power, and that

national leagues need to be protected under any changes. t is a difficult balancing act." Next season, English clubs already have two Uefa Cup places from the Premiership plus one from winning the Coca-Cola Cup. So the total European places available to English clubs could be 10 if the plans are introduced next chance of these proposals go-ing through," the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly said after the meeting. "But while there was a general wish among the clubs for more European competition for fi-nancial reasons, there was also a strong feeling that the extra clubs have to qualify on

Premiership.
The Premier League's chief executive Rick Parry did not think the extra games would entail the domestic pro-gramme being adjusted. "In terms of dates, we can cer-tainly cope with the proposals that are currently being talked about," he said. Kelly was less sure. "There is not the slack in the season at the woment" he said. "and

at the moment," he said, "and would have thought the clubs are going to be looking at the structure of the season. they're now being forced to consider a mid-season break." A more radical proposal to

turn the European Cup into a European League, presented by the Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein, will be investigated by Uefa but is thought to be too revolutionary for the ruling body at the moment ruling body at the moment.

Uefa also wants more international games played at weekends. The problems over Bosman were deferred until Monday, when the 12 countries present yesterday will meet again in London.

up in the Bill. The public

Take a letter to Virginia **Bottomley**



Vincent Hanna

such good news about Peter's new seat. For long summer weekends Worthing, I think, is marginally better than Eltham.

Look, I hope you don't mind me bringing up the Broadcast-ing Bill. You must be upset after Tuesday's humiliation. But cheer up, things could be worse — not much, I grant you — and you might have been in the Scott report.

I know you thought the job of Heritage Secretary would be fun: handing over Lottery money to charity, lots of jolly evenings at the opera. How could you possibly guess that you'd be mugged in a state retirement home by a bunch of

geriatric sports fans. And mugged — "smashed" was what Jeffrey Archer helpfully called it — you surely were, thanks to devious old Denis Howell and his mates. I could have warned you not to mix it with him.

Let's be positive, there's still time (just) for you to get something out of this and to help sport as well. It just needs a bit of lateral thinking.

Tuesday's winning amend-ment makes no sense, but then neither did the terms of David Mellor's 1990 Act. The amend-ment simply tells the Independent Television Commission (ITC) to "do all that they [sic] can" to ensure that live TV coverage of any of the eight "listed" events is not reserved exclusively for satellite TV. It is drafted like one of Sam Goldwyn's verbal agreements
— not worth the paper it's

written on. You can hear the phone call now: "TTC here, sorry Minister, we did all that we could, but the FA say they need the money, and anyway the BBC won't talk to us; we've no jurisdiction over them."

more to it than that. As shots across the bow go, this was a cracker. And unless you can come up with something new and shiny by the time the Bill gets to the Commons, other more nasty things may be

The snag is that several things have become jumbled.

wants the eight events (why such a meagre list is called the Crown Jewels beats me) available on TV for free. The sporting bodies want lots of money. Oh yes, and everyone wants to take a dig at Rupert Murdoch. A word of advice: talk to

Michael Lee. He is your oppo-site number in the Australian in the Labour Party, but trust me, he can help you. He has to live cheek-by-jowl with Mur-doch, and Packer.

He deals with terrestrial and satellite channels. And he has a Broadcasting Act that

works. Since 1992 Michael has had the power to list events which in his opinion should be available free to the public. He's no wimp, he has listed 41 of them including all matches played by the Australian net-ball team and every round of the British Open.

But the real stinger is that he has discretion to remove or exempt any event from the Act provided he is satisfied that (a) there has been fair and open commercial competition for broadcasting rights; and (b) none of the terrestrial channels has acquired them within a reasonable time.

thing. In making his decisions he can take decisions he can take into account what has happened to the edited high-lights, or the radio coverage. This is the real challenge for

you. Whatever you may do about the Crown Jewels, can you please ensure that broad casting rights to important sporting events are un-bundled, so that you prevent monopolies. Those who pay for live coverage should have to sell on the edited highlights, as with cricket's World Cup. We do not want a repetition of the Ryder Cup black-out.

Mind you, Michael Lee has a unified authority (the ABA) to help him. It has drawn up a tough set of guidelines that everyone obeys. Hard bar-gains are struck, under supervision by the ABA, and the public gets value.
I think you need something

similar, such as a new Advias referee to ensure that the provision of televised sport to the public does not rip off sport itself. Denis Howell, John Peyton, David Sheppard and others have drafted amendments on this that I know you have promised to

So take a deep breath, check out the Australian experience, forget the vested interests, and draft something original. Sport would be ever in your Minister

Best wishes, Vincent

Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



0800 333 800

Injury blow for England's Smith

OBIN SMITH'S World Cup may be over before it has started. The Hampit has started. The Hampshire and England batsman pulled a grain muscle while taking a brilliant catch towards the end of England's 62-run victory over a Lahore City XI yesterday, and such injuries can take weeks to heal.

"I felt it as I dived. That's when I must have pulled

when I must have pulled the muscle," said the 32-year-old Smith, who missed the climax of the 1992 World Cup in Australia after slipping a disc. "At this stage it feels very stiff and very sore. It's devastat-ing for me."

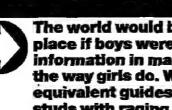
A serious pull would dis-

count Smith from the five-week tournament, which

England begin against New

Zealand next Wednesday. "We should know more in a day or two," said Eng-land's manager Ray Illing-worth. "But if the muscle has really gone then it's a three-week job and Robin is out of the competition."

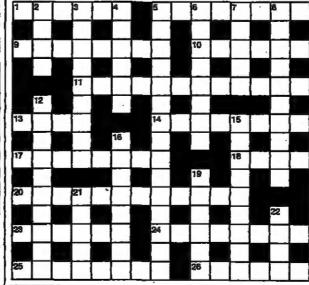
Mike Salvey, page 13



The world would be a better place if boys were to study the information in magazines in the way girls do. Where are the equivalent guides for young studs with raging hormones? Suzanne Moore

G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,570



- 1 Steels small-beer (6) 5 Water-carrier's arm leading
- the French astray (5,3) 9 Sugar made with rare Ingredients (8)
- 10 Spectre one app violent anger (6)
- 11 A novice painting "Disorderly Male Picnic"
- 13 Part of father's extravagant language (4) 14 Rude when swimming off the Isle of Wight? (8)
- 17 Child needing diet with fish 18 insect flying over seaweed
- 20 Noisy wives are disposed to speak out when last of money goes (3,4,5) 23 Specify right coin (6)
- 24 Standard applied to 25 Army a long time giving
- 26 Desert that lady? I should think sol (6) Down
- 2 Period of faint sound (4) 3 Widespread before Levant debade (3) 4 Sticks to county employees
- 5 Serious doubts about final destination perhaps (5,10) 6 Media intelligence giving
- points to players (8) 7 Warning of danger in & Fashionable model having
- cising (2,8) 12 Opportunity I won't overlook in snap (5,2,3)

15 Initial hang-up for most modern painting (4,5)

- 16 Number of fish picked up by large cat (5,3) 19 Cheque-holder or carrier (6) 21 Something of a strain for
- eight players? (5) 22 Unhappy sportsman (4)

Solution temorrow

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